

The Modern Witch: Dispelling the Myths

Frank Green doesn't ride on brooms. He doesn't worship the devil, practice black magic, or sacrifice animals and children. He doesn't have green skin with warts and he doesn't wear a tall black hat. No demons, cauldrons or black cats surround him. When most people think of witches, they think of women. Yet Green calls himself as a witch.

Green is in his late 50s. He's soft-spoken, friendly and relates fond anecdotes of his family. Yet people react rather strangely when he tells them he is a witch.

"Usually it's a laugh a first, like a disbelief, but then when I explain what it's about, you know, as opposed to what's on television [and in] Hollywood, they seem to understand better," he relates.

Written by Maria Kotovych
Photos by Krystina Sulatycki

Building a Community and Friendships

Witchcraft and neo-Paganism are alive and well here in Edmonton, and Green is an example of one of these modern witches. Green attends Fireside Chats, a bi-monthly event at Where Faeries Live, a local store that sells Pagan books, candles, jewelry, herbs and other Pagan-related items. The Fireside Chats allow Pagans to get together to discuss a spiritual topic and socialize afterwards. Many of the Pagans are solitary practitioners, so this event allows them to build friendships and develop a community.

The Fireside Chats take place in the back of the store; the room's soft colours, lighting and gentle aroma of incense create a homey and comfortable feeling. A dozen or so tables fill the room, and men and women of all ages sit at the tables, chatting and laughing excitedly with one another. Pictures and paintings adorn the pinkish-lavendar walls, lacy curtains embrace the windows, soft music plays in the background, and cookies and tea are set out on a back counter. Vases overflowing with sprigs of pussy willow adorn the mantel of the fireplace.

A number of the Pagans, witches and Wiccans present mention that the Fireside Chats allow them to get support from each other and assist each other in individual growth. Even though they believe from the heart, they still like to believe together. Friendship is mentioned more than once. There's a genuine sense of community and acceptance in the room.

'Out of the broom closet' and into the fire

Despite the friendly atmosphere at the Fireside Chat and the general welcoming nature of the community, Green explains that he still faces negative stereotypes and misconceptions about witches.

"A lot of people think we're devil-worshipping. Devil-worshipping is the opposite side, it's the black side of Christianity, the same as black magic is the black side of witchcraft," Green explains. "We don't believe in the devil. We have never believed in any kind of devil. We believe in a balance of energies."

Alexis Mapstone knows all about the misconceptions of witches and pagans; she used to harbour them herself.

"Before I came to doing a ritual or anything like that, I didn't know what a real witch was, I didn't even know that witches really did exist," Mapstone says, explaining that she understood witches only from fairy tales.

"The thought of a witch freaked me out because so many people were telling me that witches were the nuns of Satan, or something like that, or they're evil, and now I'm learning about the community and stuff and just finding that it's so not evil," she relates.

Nikita Volkova has also experienced strong reactions from people when she tells them that she's a witch.

"Most people are horrified. Stereotypes are propagated by Hollywood, and most people assume that I am uneducated. But I was going to take Holy Orders at one point, I was going to be a nun," Volkova says.

"The only two members of my family that have remained accepting of me over the years—once I finally decided okay, I'm coming out of the proverbial 'broom closet'—was to a certain extent my mother, and very surprisingly, my grandfather. The majority of the rest of my family I haven't spoken to since"

Although she did believe in God at one time, she decided not to become a nun, as unanswered prayers made her doubt her beliefs.

"Why should I devote my life to someone who couldn't answer a simple prayer? It seems that we stopped talking, or I stopped talking. He stopped listening, and that was the end of that for me," Volkova says.

Kriggi is an Eclectic Wiccan. Not only has he been on the receiving end of the stereotypes, he has also been subject to violent reactions after leaving "the broom closet."

"The only two members of my family that have remained accepting of me over the years—once I finally decided okay, I'm coming out of the proverbial 'broom closet'—was to a certain extent my mother, and very surprisingly, my grandfather. The majority of the rest of my family I haven't spoken to since," he explains.

Afraid of similar reactions from members of his family and community, Brad (who declines to give his last name) is still hiding his religious leanings. The 43-year-old describes himself as a "very hard Pagan, and a very soft Christian," but when living in small-town Alberta a few years ago, he experienced prejudice and rejection when he revealed himself as a Pagan. He took a break from Paganism for a while, and is slowly revisiting it, and though he lives in a new community, he's ready to take the risk again.

While some witches experience negative reactions, others are careful to whom they reveal their beliefs, thus shielding themselves from potential criticisms. Dee is one such witch.

"Before I tell anybody, I get a sense of where their religious beliefs are and how open they are to different things," Dee says.

However, when visiting her husband's Catholic family in Winnipeg, Dee hides all signs of her Pagan beliefs, and attends church with her in-laws. Although she herself hasn't experienced negative reactions, she identifies many untrue stereotypes

that people often attribute to modern witches.

"The belief that we're evil, the belief that we sacrifice animals [or] children, the belief that we dance naked around cauldrons and have big huge orgies all the time, that we do black magic all the time with the intent to harm, that we do it without permission from other people, any kind of magic, [or that] we keep demons as pets," Dee lists.

Dee feels that pop culture nurtures misconceptions about modern witches, misconceptions that include witches giving their soul to the devil in order to have power. Green agrees.

"I'd like to see the image changed. In fact, if they're going to put on another show on about us, I think they should hire somebody as technical support on it," Green says.

While it's clear that some feel Hollywood is not fair to witches, Kriggi believes some TV shows actually help with the image of witches.

"The misconceptions are slowly starting to eat away a little bit. But they are still very strong in a lot of aspects. Other TV shows actually help—believe it or not, they do. It's surprising. It throws back a bit of the realization that, 'Hey look, they're witches, but they hold jobs,'" he says.

Developing an interest in witchcraft

Green explains that his interest in witchcraft developed when he was a child.

"When I was seven years old I was baptized, and I didn't want to be baptized, because I said there's a father and a son, but no mother or daughter, and the balance didn't make sense to me," Green says.

Green's late wife was a devout Catholic, so he remained a Christian until 1998. Yet he admits that witchcraft always had a draw for him, and now he's "out of the broom closet." He explains that witchcraft was attractive to him because he had always wanted to honour a goddess.

"I guess I was always looking for a goddess, because little boys are brought up with women running their lives," he jokes.

"It just didn't make sense that in [Christianity] there wasn't one," he adds, this time more seriously.

Volkova, 30, also developed an interest in witchcraft as a young child.

"I learned to read when I was in kindergarten, and when I was old enough to get a library card, the first books I ever took out were on witchcraft. I had no idea why—it was just an instinctual thing. I don't even remember hearing about witches, though. I just came home with books on witchcraft. It just made sense at the age of five. My family didn't like that," she laughs at the memory.

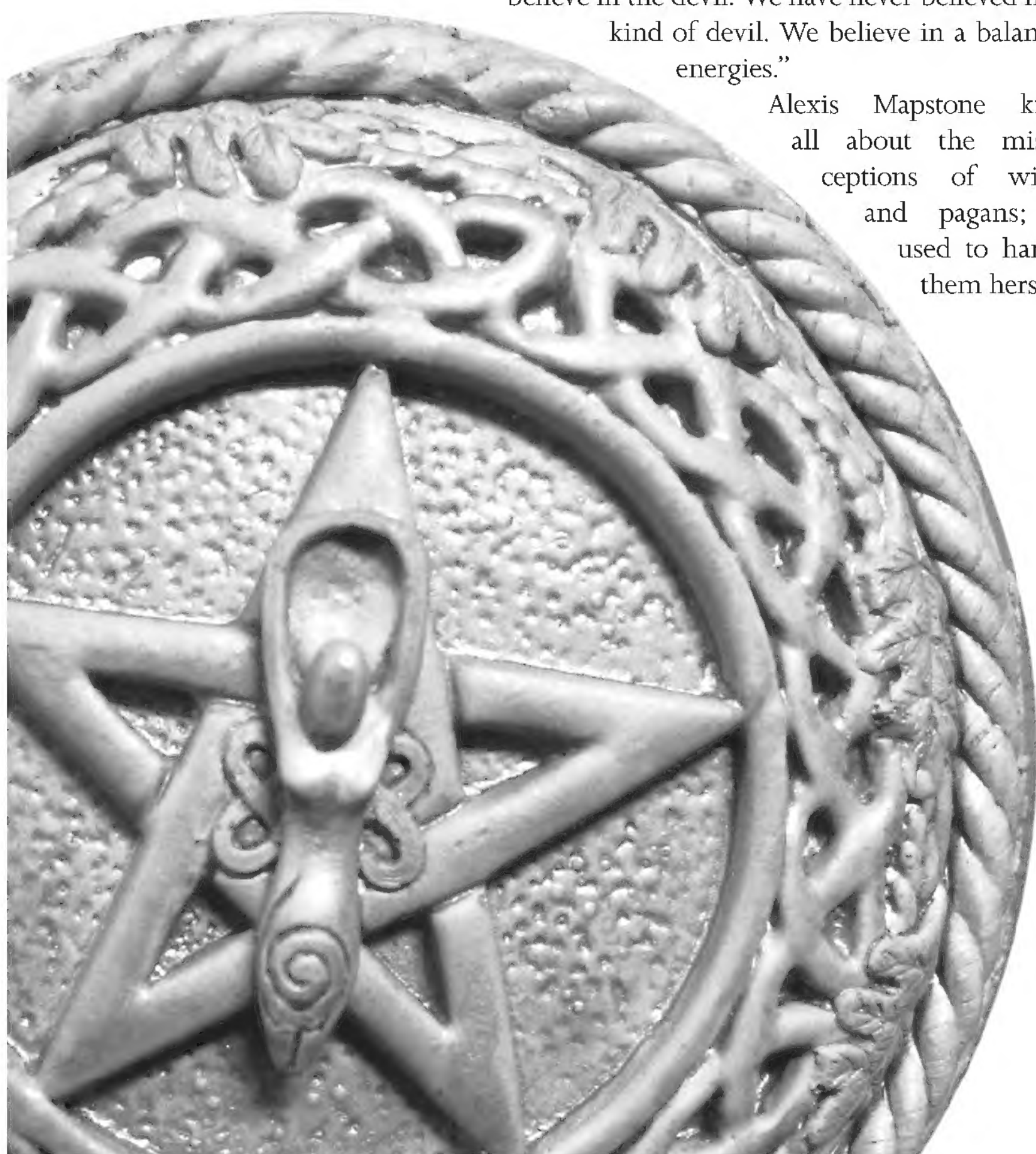
Carla is a shy, 31-year-old woman who refers to herself as an Eclectic Wiccan. She describes some of the false stereotypes that people have of Pagans, witches, and Wiccans. Among those stereotypes is people's belief that Pagans use magic for personal gain or to harm people.

"The biggest rules are do what you want, just don't harm anybody, and never mess with somebody's free will. Do your own thing," Carla says.

Carla practices magic, specifically faerie magic, but clearly outlines how she uses it.

"I use it just for protection for myself. I don't use it to hurt people or anybody. If my emotions are rather high, I'll call on the angels to help me. Or I'll ask the faeries to help me with these issues," Carla says.

Dee, a 32-year-old witch, honours the Egyptian deities, the god Anubis, and the goddess Bast.





According to Dee, Anubis is the god of the dead. She explains what the Egyptians saw as Anubis' role.

"Anubis took the soul into a place called the balance, where the heart was weighed against the feather of truth, and if the soul was worthy, it would go up into the Egyptian idea of Heaven, or it would be eaten by ... I can't remember the god's name, but he had a crocodile's head."

Bast is the Egyptian goddess of the home and the family, and according to Dee, some sources also say that Bast has a warrior side.

"She's a very nurturing goddess, they consider her to be very much like the sun, the sun being warm and essential for things to grow," Dee explains.

Volkova further offers her perspective on divinity and worship.

"I believe that divinity is imminent, and that you can walk out, and no matter where you are, divinity will always be with you, no matter if you're in a church, it doesn't matter, you're not constrained by geography and such, you don't have to go to a holy place to worship. It's always there around you no matter where you go," she states.

Mapstone, meanwhile, is new to Paganism. Calling herself "a cross between a Christian and a Pagan," she mentions that the presence of both a male and female force in Paganism is appealing to her.

"I'm finding that I'm more spiritual than religious. By 'spiritual' I mean ... believing in the elements and that there is, yes, a being, but it's more man and woman and more just a force, than just a man-figure or that type of thing."

Mapstone emphasizes the individuality of everyone's beliefs in witchcraft and Paganism.

"I've been reading in a lot of books, and there's no one real explanation of a witch or a Pagan, everyone has their own definition and their own belief system, and that's what I've gathered Paganism is—an individual thing. You find your own path, you find out what's right for you, and you do what you feel is best," Mapstone explains.

Though many witches are solitary practitioners, when then practice in a group, they do so a circle, explains Green.

"There's a high priest and priestess that keep things focused, but they're not there to direct us or tell us what to do, as in most of the other religions. They're just there to keep things on an even flow."

The circle, according to Green, exists because of the view that everyone who is participating is equal.

"The idea is that no one ... is better than anybody else. Everyone when they accept their religion

become their own priest, follow their guidelines," he says. "You set your own dogma, you set your own morals and values based on our one rule, for lack of a better word, which is you can do what you want, as long as you harm no one, and that includes yourself."

Green explains the difference between monotheism, the belief that there is one God, and polytheism, the belief in multiple gods.

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"In monotheism, it's like you have one bucket with all the water you're ever going to need for anything, for whatever you need: wash the car, drink, cook, whatever, and in polytheism, you have many small vessels of water you use individually for whatever, and each one of these have a distinct personality, and depending on what you want from them. You can kinda wander once you've learned a bit," Green explains.

Many witches are polytheistic, but this is not always the case.

Let's get academic: Samhain and Halloween

Back in the secular world, the University of Alberta's Department of Religious Studies offers a course on witchcraft and the occult, and Wayne Litke is one of the instructors. Litke explains that some of the misconceptions of witches can be traced back to Europe, to the time of witch trials. The misconception that witches worship Satan is one such myth of the period. The governments and Christian churches of Europe wanted to keep people fearful, so they created the idea that witches worship Satan, he explains. He adds that witches do not even believe in the existence of Satan, and that they follow one main rule: "Harm none, do what thou will."

Traditionally, the term "Paganism" was a pejorative term applied to anyone who did not follow the Christian or Jewish tradition, according to

Litke. Modern interest in paganism is called "neo-Paganism."

"Paganism today would be sort of a nature worship," Litke says.

Modern witchcraft is a form of neo-Paganism. Modern witches will often call themselves Wiccans, but not always, says Litke. Witches stress living in harmony with the world, and believe that the god and goddess symbolize the cycles the Earth experiences during a year.

"Their main belief is that world is alive," he explains energetically, adding that witchcraft is often—but not always—connected with feminism.

Litke explains that in witchcraft there's usually a god and a goddess, which symbolize the natural cycles (life, death, and rebirth) of the Earth. He mentions that witchcraft still continues to have appeal today because it's not authoritative, drawing instead on equality and balance.

Though modern witches do practice magic, Litke explains that the concept of "magic" is often portrayed inaccurately in the media.

"Magic is a natural form of working with the universe," he says.

Tonight, witches and pagans are celebrating their largest holiday of the year—Samhain. Litke explains that from the time the sun goes down tonight, to the time it rises tomorrow, the veil between the living and the dead will be lifted. Tonight is the time to remember and honour the deceased, and it's also a time of renewal, acting as the harvest festival.

Samhain was a celebration of the Celts to mark summer's end and the beginning of the cycle of the seasons. For Pagans, the evening of 31 October is the night before the new year begins. In the 9th century, the Christian church in England modified this holiday to fit its beliefs and practices. Thus, 1 November became All Saints Day, and the evening of 31 October was called All Hallow's Eve. We now refer to this as Halloween. Many of our current Halloween customs—like dressing up in costumes, trick-or-treating and carving pumpkins—have their roots in the traditions the Celts performed at Samhain, traditions that have remained for centuries.

Dee explains that she's going to honour the deceased at her home this evening.

"I usually leave a feast out for the dead. I have my grandmother's picture at home on my altar. I light a candle—I usually do candle magic around the time to honour the ancestors, I'll put out a feast on Halloween night for the dead, usually fruit and cookies," Dee says.



THE RULES OF HORROR MOVIE SURVIVAL

- Stick together: Think of one good reason why you should go off on your own. Got one? Great, you just died. Always have someone watching your back.
- There's a reason that door is locked: Unless it's your escape route, that door might as well be hermetically sealed. Remember the mummy's curse? They don't lock these things up for no reason.
- If you think it's dead, it's not: Demonic forces and supernatural beings don't play by the rules of our world. It's going to take a lot more than a knife to the chest or a few "regular" bullets to put that tormented soul to rest.
- Don't read it out loud: A picture may say a thousand words, but it only takes a couple lines of forbidden prose to raise the dead or summon an evil spirit. Keep it to yourself, and keep everyone safe.
- The shortcut is never the shortcut: Think you'll get away quicker if you cut through that dark alley or those tall corn rows? Surprise — you've just made yourself a much easier target.
- Trust your instincts, not your fears: Terror makes us think crazy thoughts, and soon enough, we become delusional. Don't waste your time on slippery slope worries when you could be using your much more reliable intuition to cheat death.
- Know who, or *what* you're dealing with: A vampire won't fall to a silver bullet, nor will a werewolf to a stake through the heart. Arm yourself appropriately, or you may end up on the business end of a nasty disembowelment.
- Play nice: Karma's a bitch some times, and you don't want to be caught on the bad end of some cosmic revenge. You may think you're sacrificing the group to save your ass, but the killer is always one step ahead of you. It's only a matter of time before you get a well-deserved machete to the face.
- Be aware of your role: Are you the leader? The loveable sidekick? The mysterious vamp? The oblivious blonde? Whoever you are, you're not unique. The quicker you discover your role in relation to the protagonist, the quicker you can get on his or her good side and drastically increase your chances of survival.
- Know yourself, and defy it: Monsters are based on the most primal depths of our imaginations. You *will* have to face your worst fears if you want to have any hope of survival. Prepare yourself accordingly, and you've already won the fight.

— Mike Kendrick

CARNIVAL



Horror. It's come a long way from its humble beginnings. Before you are some of the best and worst fiendish aficionados Mike Kendrick (MK), Scott C Bourgeois

PSYCHO (1960)

Imagine a time when all was right in the world, and the only threat of danger came from the Soviet Union, which was far on the other side of the world. Movie monsters wore fur-covered masks and latex suits, and were created in the labs of some mad scientist, or came from outer space. This was a time filled with idealism and naiveté, where the "real" dangers of the world couldn't actually harm us. Now imagine stepping into a theatre and witnessing the brutal murder of a beautiful heroine by a seemingly normal but sick and twisted lunatic. This is exactly what makes *Psycho* work so well. While many of us are jaded to such mundane acts today, an entire generation was mercilessly shown that death could come when we least expect it, and not at the hands of the boogey man, but from the friendly guise of a smiling stranger. (MK)

THE WICKER MAN (1973)

Don't bother with Nicholas Cage's recent remake. The original *Wicker Man*—Starring both the delightfully evil Christopher Lee and the delightfully naked Britt Ekland—is where it's at. A police detective in search of a missing girl makes his way to the island village where she lived, only to have the mysterious locals stymie his investigation. A great movie with a surprise ending that will leave you agog. (SCB)

DAWN OF THE DEAD (1979)

Director George Romero made a shocking debut a decade earlier with his film *Night of the Living Dead*, but his legacy was established in this 1979 follow-up. The undead plague has spread throughout the nation, and the hordes of rotting zombies now outnumber the survivors. While the film is popular in socially con-

scious circles for its themes on mindless mass-consumerism, it has garnered an even larger cult following for pioneering a great number of "rules" for the zombie genre. Its satirical brand of dark comedy has spawned countless imitations and tributes. (MK)

THE SHINING (1980)

One of Jack Nicholson's most enduring roles is Jack Torrance, the alcoholic author who takes his family out to the Overlook Hotel to act as caretakers for the winter. Of course, the Overlook is haunted, and begins to prey on Jack and his son Danny, and that's when things get crazy. This is one of those classic movies that you've either seen, or should see immediately. Here's a neat piece of trivia: young Danny Lloyd never saw any of the horrific effects of the movie during the shoot. Remember that when you see some of his reactions in the movie. All work and no play make Jack a dull boy. (SCB)

AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON (1981)

At times hilarious and at times terrifying, this is one of the classic must-see werewolf movies. A pair of American backpackers is travelling across Britain when they're attacked by a lycanthrope in the moors. Solidly written from beginning to end, and with one of the most horrifying transformation scenes in cinematic history, anyone who loves werewolves and hasn't seen this movie should be ashamed. A definite must on any horror geek's shelf. (SCB)

THE THING (1982)

A great film starring action hero/"Captain Ron" Kurt Russell. Set in an Antarctic research base, a group of isolated scientists are forced to deal with

an alien shape changer—that could be disguised as any one of them. The film is wonderfully terrifying, especially the first time through, as you really don't know who might be the homicidal alien. The paranoid tension between the characters is great, and the alien effects are both grotesque and astounding. (SCB)

RE-ANIMATOR (1985)

A cult classic that takes a comedic twist on the mad scientist film, *Re-Animator* is a hilarious gore-filled romp through genre stereotypes and conventions. Herbert West is a bizarre and introverted neurology student who has stumbled across the elixir of life, which has the power to bring the living back from the dead when injected into the brain. Unfortunately, things never quite work out right for mad scientists, and West's re-animated corpses become nothing more than primal, mindless zombies whose only instincts are to kill. The film uses tongue-in-cheek hyperbole with mastery, and while entirely predictable, *Re-Animator* never intended to be anything more than pure and simple fun. A handful of sequels have been spawned in years past, but the original is easily the best of the bunch. (MK)

EVIL DEAD II (1987)

Before Bruce Campbell was a household name in *Army of Darkness*, but after his first flirtations with the Necromicon in the original *Evil Dead*, came one of the best performances of his career. As Ash, he returns to that haunted little cabin out in the woods to meet his fate once more. Campbell is much more at home in the revised character of Ash, whose slapstick buffoonery is constantly getting him into—and keeping him out of—precarious situations. *Evil Dead II* has one of the most famous and hilarious



CARNAGE

beginnings in the lots of Universal Studios, where acting maidens and overconfident treasure hunters of the genre, hand picked by Gateway horror boys (SCB), Scott Lilwall (SL) and Jonn Kmech (JK).

scenes in the series, where Ash is forced to wrestle with his recently severed and demonically possessed hand. In addition to the first appearance of his now-famous Chainsaw Hand, *Evil Dead II* has so much wit and style that it's impossible not to fall in love with it. (MK)

JACOB'S LADDER (1990)

Since its 1990 release, there hasn't been a more engaging and downright terrifying psychological thriller released than Adrian Lyne's masterpiece *Jacob's Ladder*. One of those precious few horror movies that don't feature something jumping out at you to deliver thrills, Lyne instead creates a descent into the hell within one's own mind. Nonlinear and disjointed, the story follows Jacob Singer, played by Tim Robbins, through several versions of what may be his life, where at times he's in the jungles of Vietnam, and other times he's seeing demons in his life in New York. A workshop in the use of sensory terror, the movie combines some simple, yet highly effective sound and visual elements to create a horror experience likened to the first *Nightmare on Elm Street*, where you really don't want to go to sleep after watching. Never again will the words "dream on" not be accompanied by a chill down your spine. (JK)

HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL (1999)

This remake of the Vincent Price classic stars the amazingly talented Geoffrey Rush (who actually transformed into Vincent Price for the role) and the smoking hot Famke Janssen. It's a fairly cut-and-paste haunted house horror movie, but with some truly disturbing scenes and a few heart-stopping scares. Rush's billionaire thrill-seeker decides to throw a birthday party for his wife in a real haunted insane asylum, and, natu-

rally, chaos ensues. The first part of the movie is really quite frightening, and the ending is laughably terrible. Worth renting. (SCB)

SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE (2000)

Nosferatu was an amazing movie, and is a classic of the horror genre. *Shadow of the Vampire* takes that classic and spins a wonderful fiction theorizing that the crazed director found a real vampire to star in his movie. And, frankly, a movie starring John Malkovich, Willem Dafoe and Cary Elwes is a guaranteed hit. Chilling, witty and armed with a phenomenal cast, *Shadow of the Vampire* is highly recommended viewing. (SCB)

ALONE IN THE DARK (2005)

If you're looking for a textbook example of how *not* to make a movie, look no further than the filth on the screen of any Uwe Boll movie. Of course, if his aim was to cast the most unskilled and expressionless actors to play in a movie whose only likeness to its original video game plot is its namesake, then perhaps Boll has succeeded. Lead actor Christian Slater has as much onscreen chemistry with hollow-skulled bimbo Tara Reid as a neanderthal making sweet, awkward love to an inflatable pool toy, but damn, he looks hardcore in that Mad Max trench coat. With terrible pacing, god-awful cinematography, and a plot that makes as much sense as Tara Reid's lines do to her bubblegum and lip gloss mind, *Alone in the Dark* is easily one of the worst "horror" films ever made. (MK)

SILENT HILL (2006)

Silent Hill's visually driven story line makes one feel like a kid at Easter with a mountain of chocolate bunnies to chew through, telling yourself "I'm going to

eat alllllll this candy!" For the first hour of your binge, everything is going along fine. You're having a grand old time, enjoying the sugary goodness and basking in the stark, disturbing atmosphere.

But, after a while, you start to get a bit tired of eating only candy. Not that the candy isn't still good, because it is. But, you start to long for something a different, maybe some sort of character development to break the monotony of the same thing throughout.

And, predictably, the end of the whole candy affair is a fucking tragedy. You're tired of candy, not to mention the fact that you've gone through all of the good stuff, and are left with the disgusting sugary ducks. The memory of that last half hour is enough to spoil the good time you had before it. Not to mention you feel like throwing up.

By the time you're done watching *Silent Hill*, that's exactly how you'll feel. (SL)

STAY ALIVE (2006)

The horror genre is becoming a little strained at this point, as slasher movies are no longer relevant, and J-Horror is becoming "too mainstream" for blood-thirsty audiences. This new release explores the underused territory of technological horror, wherein the characters' survival in real life is dependent on their survival in a new video game called *Stay Alive*. The film isn't inherently bad, but the slow pacing, along with poorly written and predictable characters, severely hinders any potential that the movie builds in its prologue. With a cameo role by boy-wonder Frankie Muniz, viewers will cringe every time his irritating character speaks a line of nausea-inducing dialogue. Some post-production polish could have saved this one, but in the end, it's a Game Over. (MK)



A different kind of show

The Adventures of David Berry and the U of A Frats



Weather is a harbinger, and as the sleet came down on Friday night, I was glad I worked an umbrella into my costume. Three feet left of a bus that had just thrown up two dozen Playboy bunnies and Ninja Turtles into the maw of the Deke house, I walk with baby steps to avoid slipping on the slush. Deke Halloween parties are the stuff of legend, or at least would be if Hercules had spent more time drunkenly groping: could I do this?

No—not at first, anyway. I’m so new to this I have a can of Black Label stashed in my coat pocket: in my city, parties are BYOB. Fortunately, there’s a Kappa Alpha kegger eight houses down, a chance to wet feet where the men are clever and the women don’t expose too much skin. A three-meter swan dive into Modest Mouse and a keg you pump yourself is how I start the night.

“Literary Society” is, of course, the proper English term for frat. They distinguish themselves with a bookcase on the east wall and costumes that aren’t store-bought. Half past nine, though, and you only need one shoe off to count the revelers. Most sit around a fold-out table, three paces from the beer. Quarters fly, then cards come out: when you pull a six, everyone drinks, if I remember the rules correctly.

Dude in a bathrobe—“Fuck, this’ll do”—explains that the party will buck up soon. Half the house has been drinking since six, of course, but not everyone can throw away a night so recklessly. We make small talk over the books in the corner; ten minutes and getting out-Roald Dahled later, it’s time to brave the Dekes. Let’s see those fuckers top *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More*.

Back to the sleet, the haunted house on the hill awaiting. Quarter past ten and no lineup outside—I thought these guys knew how to party. “\$35,” the pledge manning the door tells me. “Oh, no, right, \$25.” Guy looks like he used to play bench for the Morinville Varsity volleyball team, but at least he’s got his social pecking order straight—I hand him my ID and my OneCard, but I still smell pistick smeared on gym lockers.

Seems tame, through the doors: my friends had houses like these, though never the foresight to lay cardboard down on the hardwood. Two choices: left to the maze, right to the basement. It’s clear from the jumpsuits guarding the door that I have as much chance of getting in the maze as whispering sweet nothings into their diamond-studded ears tomorrow morning. So downstairs it is, past three guys cleverly disguised as frat boys and a teetering brunette with butterfly wings.

I didn’t know this place existed. The Dekes have cleverly figured out how to stuff the remains of my 18th birthday into their basement. Squire’s, Ezzie’s and The Union Hall in residence; it’s a house and they have their own fucking liquor reps, peddling vodka water across from the foosball table. The antechamber is nothing, though: through a non-descript doorway is pulsing, gyrating, grinding. A DJ booth on the side, elevated stage on the other, a bar across the way: what the hell do they do with this room on Tuesdays?

Elbowing through to the bar, I don’t even get an option: Dekebräu from a pitcher from a keg, and on your way. Shame, too: for the first few hours, you can’t even taste the alcohol in the punch; I bet these guys do a mean BBQ.

The dance floor is a dance floor, remarkable only because I keep reminding myself I’m in a basement. These mating dances are two pieces of fabric from being mating, but at least they’re honest: fucking after talking is still just fucking if you don’t call the next day, so why pay retail? Love is for storybooks and Internet dating: these costumes are about the moment on the hips.

All the same, back to the sleet: they don’t want me here any more than I want to be there, and intellectual voyeurism is four parts peeping Tom in the land of grinding, tans and abs. Literary society beer is beer all the same, and at least I won’t hear “My Humps.”

Back through the door, six clever men admonish me for ever leaving in the first place. “We knew you’d come crawling back,” they say, only more cleverly. “Our penises are bigger than theirs,” remains unspoken, but it’s understood all the same. Their party has grown, though cute, chatty girls remain this country’s most precious resource: the four lady Ghostbusters might as well have come dressed as targets.

Deke experience has taught me, though: down to the basement, for the real party. A devil fills his drink from a backup keg, but he’s alone except for the twelve-string in the corner and the accruelements of smoking on the coffee table. Someone was playing Dave Matthews some time ago, I’ll bet, but now all that remains is some poetry tacked to the wall and a few bad couches: the Kaps have cleverly stuffed the remains of my 19th birthday into their basement. A cigarillo and some Keith’s and I’ll tell you all about why I’m in love with my best friend.

Back on the main floor, the party is as real as it’ll get. An adventurous couple heads up the stairs just before sexy cowgirls, sexy cowboys, a sexy schoolgirl and a sexy Paperbag Princess make their entrance. A few moments later, a gaggle of 40-year-olds burst in like they own place. No costumes, no money for the beer, no clue: rugby players, evidently, friends of a friend, looking for a party. No one told them that just because the girls are legal doesn’t mean it’s any less creepy for you to hit on them. Perched over the keg like a balding eagle, one bellows, “Free beer here! The beer ... here ... is free!” Free for you, fucker: it was \$10 for my cup, but thanks anyway for pouring and turning the living room into Downtown BP’s Lounge after the office towers let out.

Wait a minute: is that “My Humps?” Sure as shit is—the literary society beats the Dekes to the bottom of the well by a solid half-hour. Not long after the lady lumps are but a bad memory, a glass breaks: the first casualty of a drunken evening, and someone has to get the broom. The broom becomes a moot point when, about ten seconds later, the second casualty of the evening goes flying through the banister: the Dahl scholar has just tossed one of the Working for the Weekend crew down a flight of stairs. Presumably they disagreed about the effect Pater had on Wilde’s early novels.

Scuffle, scuffle, break it up: a secondary fight flares, but it too is quelled. The 40-year-olds are scapegoated for the fight, to the objection of no one but themselves. Against better judgment, I follow them out the door: if the literary blood is this boiled, somebody must be dead at the Deke house.

Cept there’s nothing. I still can’t get into the maze, though this time someone calls my sexuality into question when I ask why people are signing the doorman’s abs: you’ll wake up staring at my smoke detector someday, pudding. Downstairs, “My Humps” blasts through the speakers, and the punch now smells like paint thinner and vodka. *Vive la différence*: most bars get cheaper as the night goes on, the Dekes are mixing fruit punch that could get a Greyhound to Calgary and back. Aside from that, the only difference is that grinding has mostly turned to sloppy neck sucking. Mardi Gras beads are a sure sign someone has shown someone else something, but most partygoers seem content to pull it out in private, or at least to get into the corner. There’s no shortage of private spaces around, and surely at least one of the pledges woke up in a bed whose sheets he didn’t stain.

Back to the Kaps for one last hurrah. DJ has packed up, a few intrepid folks are trying to drain the kegs, but the threat of cops has cleaned this one out pretty good: intellectual cowards can’t even deal with the 5-0. Those that remain make fun of what’s transpired, still half-heartedly trying their wordy, tentative dance (credit them for being more subtle than “bend over,” but you can’t fault Deke efficiency in this case). A slightly heavy dude in a band T-shirt crosses the conversation line—never say “orgasm” unless you’re actually in bed, friends—scaring away his conversation partner. Nevertheless, he assures me a little later that, despite his belly and his experience tonight, he “still gets a lot of pussy.” Amen, brother: a few extra pounds and fumbling social graces hasn’t entirely held me back, either.

That’s the cue to exit. Careful steps down the snowy front walk, some flashing lights catch my eye: 5-0 have pulled up outside the Deke house, the frat party last call. No doubt this gives the Kaps a few more minutes of beer and Ghostbusters, their night prolonged by the eternal fuckups who live just down the way.

Cops are still coming, though, Kaps: bookshelves or basement bars, pussy or poetry, it all gets broken up in the end. Sleet has turned to snow, but I have an umbrella and a smile: if you gotta go, you might as well go out happy.



Islands not a land of unicorns

Islands

With The Ride Theory and The Besnard Lakes
Tuesday, 31 October at 7pm
Starlite Room

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Nick Diamonds is haunted by the shadows of his past. The popularity of his defunct bare-bones pop band, the Unicorns, has been stalking him since their messy breakup in 2004.

When MP3s of his new brainchild, Islands, came into being, the comparisons were swift and frequent, unaided by the band's choice to reinterpret some old Unicorns songs on their first

release to the world. But much like the mythical creature, such juxtapositions have been debunked, thanks to Island's constant touring and the release of their dreamy pop album *Return to the Sea*. Indeed, things are starting to change.

"It's a slow process, but it's definitely happening," Diamonds explains with regards to separating his old band from the new and improved Islands. "I think once we put out another record, it'll make us even more obvious, and stand alone that much more [from the Unicorns]."

Since its inception, Islands has swollen too much larger proportions than your average band. Its large cast of musicians currently includes multi-

instrumentalists Patrick Gregorie, Alex Chow and Sebastian Chow, bassist Patrice Agoboku, violinist Kate Perkins and percussionist Aaron Harris.

"I think once we put out another record, it'll make us even more obvious, and stand alone that much more [from the Unicorns]."

NICK DIAMOND

While this might seem musically indulgent, Diamonds insists that

having such a large group of musicians is a blessing, not a curse.

"[Having so many members] makes it sound a lot more interesting and fluid and full," he says. "Also, on a purely personal level, it makes things nice because there's a lot of different people to focus your energy on. You never really get tired of anyone because you can always go have out with someone else and you never really feel to boxed in."

Diamonds places extra emphasis on developing relationships within the group, especially since inter-band conflicts tore the Unicorns—which was only a three-piece—apart. However, the latest additions to the group came at the expense of

Diamond's long-time friend and fellow Unicorn alumnus, drummer Jamie Thompson.

Thompson, tired of playing in a band, left Islands in the middle of their well-received tour opening up for Metric. The loss of such a band member could have been a killing blow to such a young band, but according to Diamonds, the transition period was remarkably smooth. The band picked up Harris and continued on, undaunted, into a European tour.

Now touring North America yet again, Islands are proving themselves to be a band of unquenchable ambition. Diamonds seems to think such touring zeal is vital to meshing as a band.

PLEASE SEE ISLANDS ♦ PAGE 17

Snippets of the unordinary

Running With Scissors portrays Augusten Burroughs' chaotic and quirky life

Running With Scissors

Directed by Ryan Murphy
Starring Annette Benning, Joseph Cross, Brian Cox, Joseph Fiennes, Evan Rachel Wood, Alec Baldwin and Gwyneth Paltrow
Empire Theatres
Now Playing

DIANA SONG
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Running with scissors: it's not exactly the safest of activities, and it's not something you see people doing everyday. But then again, the film *Running With Scissors* isn't about ordinary people or ordinary lives. In fact, it's steeped in weirdness and crazy situations. Unfortunately, this also sort of poses a problem.

Based on the popular memoir by Augusten Burroughs, *Running With Scissors* is about Burroughs, or, more specifically, his early teenage years. Burroughs' mother, Dierdre, is mentally unstable and a struggling poet, and his father is an absent alcoholic. After his parents' divorce, Burroughs is sent off to live with his mother's therapist, Dr Finch (played to great comic effect by Brian Cox), but unfortunately,

Dr Cox isn't all there himself; his family is even more dysfunctional than Burroughs'. Thrust into a disturbing and strange new reality, Burroughs must cope with what he gets, and try to maintain his sanity in a place where sanity doesn't even seem to exist.

Running With Scissors is an odd film, which is inevitable, considering its plot and zany characters. The utter quirkiness works itself in, lending the film a degree of humour that becomes the main reason for its entertaining qualities. The jokes are dark and dry, and most of them come with the baggage of disturbing situations—such as Augusten's affair with a 33-year-old man who also happens to be a schizophrenic. Still, you still can't help but laugh at the witty dialogue.

Although the quirkiness helps the film by adding hilarity, it's also the reason for the movie's downfall. Most of the characters feel one-dimensional and underdeveloped, as if they're nothing but crazy cardboard cutouts placed strategically to provoke laughs. The actors shed tears at the blink of an eye, but since everything seems to be happening in a weird, other dimension that has nothing to do with the world the rest of us live in, most of

the dramatic scenes fail to arouse any kind of emotion. It's a shame, because theoretically there's a lot in the movie that's capable of drawing empathy from the viewers.

The acting is another problem. While most of the cast does nicely with what they're given (which isn't much), they seem to be simply enjoying the ride, and fail at giving their characters any kind of real depth. Really, the only actor who pulls off a praiseworthy job is Annette Bening (Deirdre). She lights up the screen every time she appears, and brings fire and heart to her insane role.

In the end, the film itself is, in a way, running with scissors. It gives off a sense of being dangerously off-balance, and that it could accidentally cut itself at any given moment. And by the time the credits start rolling down the screen, you can't help but feel that the movie's come out all tattered, with shallow self-inflicted cuts covering every inch of its surface.

Running With Scissors is funny, depressing and trying way too hard to be weird. Watch it if you like quirkiness, but if you're looking for some depth at the same time, you might want to stay away.



Lending a hand to old school fighting games

God Hand

Playstation 2
Clover Studios
Capcom
Rated M for Mature
On sale now

RAMIN OSTAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

After years of playing game after game, it can sometimes become difficult not to judge a case by its cover graphics, so to speak. Often, it's easier to simply look at a few screenshots and maybe a video of a game, and pass judgment over its general quality, without actually laying your calloused thumbs on the controller. However, it does pay to give some of those passed-over games a try. You may just find a diamond in the rough; you may just find that, under its unpolished visuals and odd premise, there's a game that's quite enjoyable—and, the first time I used an ethereal baseball bat to knock a guerilla wearing a wrestling mask straight into space, I knew that *God Hand* was one of those games.

Made by Clover Studios—creators of *Viewtiful Joe* and *Okami*—*God Hand* follows Gene, a skinny, well-toned badass alpha male who likes nothing more than a good fight. The game's title refers to Gene's right arm, called the God Hand, which apparently possesses some very awesome power. The story—though you can barely call it that—has Gene battle all sorts of other fighters, including a trio of scheming demons, who want this power; since Gene's got a score

to settle with them anyway, combat inevitably follows. Along the way, Gene fights a number of hilarious villains, including a fat Hispanic demon who likes to eat people, a pair of flamboyantly gay, scantily clad exotic dancers and a dominatrix who's so evil, she kicks puppies.

What *God Hand* does provide, though, is an entertaining, if not nostalgic, experience for anyone in the mood for a good beat-'em-up game.

But let's be clear: *God Hand* is nothing more or less than an old fashioned 3D fighter. However, it just happens to be one of the few games of its kind that's actually any good. For one, the game has a very irreverent and distinctive sense of style. Any fans of *Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior* will really get a kick out of some of the mohawk-sporting biker dudes that are gunning after Gene in the game's corroded and seemingly desolate environments. The audio is also great, with plenty of hilarious voice acting and dialogue that's rich with pure cheese. Unfortunately, the style is a bit undermined by *God Hand*'s shady visuals. The environments, as stylistic as they are, become repetitive really fast; they're fairly boxy and uninteresting, with plenty of pop-in going on, which means any number



of walls, tables and banisters spontaneously phase for no real reason.

That said, it's a very good thing that the combat in the game is incredibly tight. Over the course of his rather long affair, Gene will gain access to over a hundred different motion-captured moves and God Hand powers—with humorous names like “Pimp Hand” and “Kung Fu Mamba”—which can then be bound to each of the face buttons on your controller. There is also a rage meter

that builds up as you fight; when it's full, you can unleash your God Hand—or rather, God Arm—at the push of a button, making you invulnerable and allowing you to punch away at your enemies until the meter is depleted. Gene may not be able to block, but he can dodge with a flick of the right analog stick in any direction. With an arsenal like that, the combat continually stays fresh and fun, despite the sometimes cookie-cutter enemies you encounter.

However, *God Hand* isn't for everyone. It isn't packed with stunning visuals and realistic physics, so anyone looking for a “next-gen” game and the like should probably look elsewhere. What *God Hand* does provide, though, is an entertaining, if not nostalgic, experience for anyone in the mood for a good beat-'em-up game. With a refreshing sense of style and fairly deep fighting system, *God Hand* is a game that should not be overlooked.

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Divas a musical medley

3 Mo' Divas provides audiences with live theatre and music, all in one sitting

3 Mo' Divas

Directed by Marion J Caffey
Starring Gretha Boston, DeVonna Lawrence, Jamet Pittman, Yvette Gonzalez-Nacer, Andrea Jones-Sojola and Laurice Lanier
Runs 21 October to 12 November
Citadel Theatre

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The experience of witnessing *3 Mo' Divas* is akin to listening to a favourite greatest hits CD or compilation, in that there will be many familiar tunes that will never become tiresome. The only difference that sets a theatrically staged concert like *3 Mo' Divas* apart from the average MP3 playlist is, perhaps, the diversity and range of music to be heard.

Three women—Gretha Boston, DeVonna Lawrence, Jamet Pittman—tackle the epic task of singing eight musical styles that encompass over 400 years of music in one evening. The spectrum ranges from classical opera, Broadway, jazz, blues and soul, to spiritual and gospel, with all genres performed by the same three women. The task is so vocally demanding that *3 Mo' Divas* not only features one, but

two casts of Divas, each performing four shows per week.

Accompanying the cast is an ensemble of instrumental musicians, including John Coffey (synthesizer), Brett Liebham (guitar/electric guitar), Sipho Kuene (drums), Mike Lent (bass/electric guitar) and Kent Sangster (reeds). Like the Divas, the accompanying instrumental performances transverse musical styles and decades of popular American music—from classic 1950s Broadway songs such as *Little Shop of Horrors* to contemporary '80s hits like *It's Raining Men*.

While the *3 Mo' Divas* production lacks the narrative or storyline of a typical Citadel Theatre production, *3 Mo' Divas* is more of a concert—a journey of music history that will rekindle memories of youth and past eras for older audiences, while entertaining younger audiences with music that remains popular even today.

The opening act features the three Divas in a musical sing off, with each Diva trying to upstage each other with classical opera hits like “Quando M'en Vo” from *La Bohème* and “Je Veux Vivre” from *Romeo et Juliette's Waltz*.

After changing into 1930s-style

clothing, the Divas then sing a plethora of Broadway and classic American movie melodies, including “Style” from the musical *Queenie Pie* and “Let the Good Times Roll” from the musical *Five Guys Named Moe*. The Divas undergo additional costume changes, with one Diva dressing up as an Afro-wearing, disco-bound, free-loving hippie singing “Let The Sunshine In” from the James Redo and Gerome Ragni musical production of *Hair*. Other popular melodies include “Dreamgirls” and the theme song from the musical *Rent*, “Seasons of Love.”

For jazz and blues fans, there's no shortage of music, and each of the Divas give strong solo performances. Diva Jamet Pittman expresses suffering and loneliness of singlehood in the song “Solitude.” Moments later, Diva DeVonna Lawrence ridicules love in the song “My Funny Valentine.”

3 Mo' Divas is also a celebration of past and present Divas. With their strong vocals, non-stop performances and a vast quantity of familiar and unfamiliar tunes, *3 Mo' Divas* will appeal to a variety of audiences. With over 36 songs sung in a two-hour period, music lovers will certainly get their fix of live concert music—and their money's worth.

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Got that?

Islands emerge from ruins

ISLANDS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

“I think it's good to figure out each individual in the band, and how they can contribute to the overall sound,” Diamond says. “It's good to try and establish what the band is doing, and repetition is a good way to enforce something.”

The road is also liberating for Diamond's own songwriting, which he says has been in overdrive the entire time.

“On the last tour in Europe we wrote about three new songs that we're doing on this next tour, that we're going to be tweaking and stuff,” he says, clearly excited for the future of his band. The horizon seems bright, indeed.

After this tour, the Islands has plans

to immediately begin recording the follow up to *Return to the Sea*. The band is riding a large wave of success and critical acclaim, and—as Diamonds explains—has no shortage of new songs to record.

“We have about 20 songs,” Diamonds says excitedly, “Half of which won't make it on the [next] record. We're just working on fine-tuning those songs off of this tour ... [this tour is] about performing the songs, working the kinks out.”

Islands' tour stop in Edmonton happens to be on Halloween, a day that Diamonds plans to make special for everyone in attendance.

“I want to paint eyeballs on my eyelids ... and I think we're going to do a special spooky cover song,” he

deadpans. “Maybe we'll kill somebody, resurrect them, that kind of thing.”

Such morbid comedic statements helped make the Unicorns darlings in hipster circles during their existence, but those days are behind Diamonds now, and while he has retained his sense of humor from that age, it's now matched with a serious devotion to his craft.

“The next record is really a big focus, and I personally want to make the best record we can make at this time,” Diamond says. “A lot of the sounds we've got right now have the potential to make a record that's a classic of the ages. I think if we don't fuck it up, and put it to tape properly, we can make something that's just remarkable.”

Wafer Thin Mints a coffee table snack

Wafer Thin Mints

With The Fat Dave Crime Wave and Down The Hatch
Tuesday, 31 October at 9pm
Sidetrack Café

TONY KESS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's pre-rehearsal for the Wafer Thin Mints' Halloween show at the Sidetrack Café, yet there's no stress around the coffee table at drummer Johnathan Baker's house. There are no pre-show jitters, or self-aggrandizing talk of the CJSR chart success of their upcoming album *The Finest Car They Ever Built In 1983*; instead, there's just light-hearted conversation, and above all else, coffee. This should come as no surprise, though, for prior to playing together, the quartet had always been drawn together by the call of caffeine.

"We all go to the Sugar Bowl," Baker says. "Before that it was Café La Garre on the corner of 80th and 81st, but we all liked to hang out at the coffee shop."

"We've all known each other since the late '80s," songwriter Pat Strain recounts. "We made a blood pact to always be in the same band."

Treaties aside, the members of the Wafer Thin Mints are no novices to the Edmonton music scene; they've been playing together in a string of different groups since the early '90s, starting with a power pop group in '91.

"Three of us were in a band called



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

JAVA JIVE The Wafer Thin Mints have known each other for over 25 years, and to this day they can't resist setting down their instruments for a cup of coffee.

the Cone of Silence, and ever since then, that's the band that we are remembered as," Strain says.

Playing together throughout so many different music trends is likely to affect a group's sound, but the band now known as the Wafer Thin Mints mark a more mature era in the group's musical career, one divergent enough to quell any Cone of Silence comparisons.

"This band is a bit of a departure from the old one; this band is a little more quiet and reflective," Strain says.

"We just threw the acoustic guitar into the mix to lighten things up," Baker continues. "If Cone of Silence

was a band like Yes, then Wafer Thin Mints would be Glass Tiger," he jokes.

As the band has progressed, so has music distribution. New media like the Internet and sites like MySpace are now a part of music promotion, and the Wafer Thin Mints have taken notice both of the benefits and shortcomings of these new tools.

"People couldn't have used these resources as much ten years ago," Strain says. "I think that the gates are wide open now."

"We were on the 'net right away; it got us to a few festivals, and it seemed to have an effect," Baker explains. "But

now there's so much out there that it's hard to get a signal through all the noise. Still, it's cool to get feedback. It's great on the creativity side."

Lately, feedback is exactly what the Wafer Thin Mints have been getting, and for the most part, it's been positive. Their album, *The Finest Car They Ever Built In 1983*, produced by Steve Loree, is currently at number seven on the CJSR charts, garnering more play than big name artists such as DJ Shadow and TV On The Radio.

"On commercial radio, maybe it means that you're going to sell a disc or two, but on public radio, it means that you're going to get downloaded

more, and that maybe people want to know who you are," Baker says.

With all the buzz surrounding their new album, and the people who're curious to know more about the Mints, they obviously better put forward their best faces on Halloween—or maybe not.

"We get up, we play, we leave and people clap," Baker jokes. "No, we're going to be in some costumes, and anyone who shows up in costume gets a discount at the door. The band has been considering a few options: Spice Girls was one, but we figure Pussycat Dolls is a little bit more relevant."



JESSE WHITEHEAD

DIRTY LITTLE DEVILS Rum Runner and Hollywood Gods played at The Loft Saturday night.



The Decemberists

The Crane Wife
Capitol Records
www.decemberists.com

MATTHEW BARRETT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Crane Wife marks The Decemberists switch-a-roo from indie label Kill Rock Stars to Capitol Records. For a band that's cultivated its sound from the unconventional (Wurlitzer organs and accordions, anyone?) and its lyrics

from mythology as much as history textbooks or travel guides, the switch to a label with a more mainstream focus is alarming. But when it boils down to it, have The Decemberists really lost their shtick in the change?

The answer, simply enough, is no. The Decemberists' distinctive sound hasn't been curtailed for *The Crane Wife*, and Colin Meloy's lyrics are as strong as ever. In his retelling of the Japanese folktale—the album takes its name from the grisly track "Shankhill Killers," a tune about a gang that roamed city streets killing Roman Catholics—Meloy's approach to songwriting is as creative and emotionally resonant as ever.

But that doesn't mean there aren't noticeable differences between The Decemberists of then and now. Their sound is noticeably more accessible; more polished, preened and radio-and-TV-ready. Don't get me wrong; it's still good, and it should still satisfy long-time fans, but the transition in The Decemberists latest release is the same one as in Death Cab and Modest Mouse's latest releases. It's that calm before the mainstream storm.



This pumpkin is a work of genius. Look at the carving technique utilized to trace the intricate lines of Harry's face. Amazing.

Pumpkin carving, like graffiti, is a debatable art, but if you attend Gateway A&E meetings (Thursdays at 5pm in 3-04 SUB), we will enlighten you with the plethora of other works that should be considered art—like Bryan Adams' "Summer of '69."

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Bears blow lead, season against Rams



36

25



Player of the Game

Regina running back Graham Mosiondz carried the ball 32 times for 219 yards and scored the Rams' first touchdown of the game.

Box Score

First Quarter
07:22 AB—Tendayi Jozzy 1 yd run (Scott Stevenson kick)
10:11 REG—Perri Scarcelli 43 yd field goal
13:34 ALB—Damon Fraietta 29 yd pass from Quade Armstrong (Scott Stevenson kick)

Second Quarter
00:47 REG—Graham Mosiondz 22 yd run (Perri Scarcelli kick)
04:47 AB—Scott Stevenson 15 yd field goal
14:09 AB—Ryan Michalenko 22 yd pass from Quade Armstrong (Scott Stevenson kick)
15:00 REG—Jordan Sisco 38 yd pass from Teale Orban (Perri Scarcelli kick)

Third Quarter
04:06 REG—Perri Scarcelli 26 yd field goal
12:09 REG—Chris Getzlaf 40 yd pass from Teale Orban (Chad Goldie pass from Teale Orban)
12:10 REG—Perri Scarcelli rouge (kickoff)
14:50 REG—Chris Getzlaf 37 yd pass from Teale Orban (Perri Scarcelli kick)

Fourth Quarter
02:03 ALB—Scott Stevenson rouge (punt)

Regina	3	14	19	0	—	36
Alberta	14	10	0	1	—	25

	REG	AB
First downs	23	22
Yards rushing	196	200
Yards passing	189	179
Net offense	385	379
Passes made-attempted	13-25	13-27
Return yards	87	79
Interceptions made-yards	2-13	1-0
Fumbles-lost	2-0	0-0
Sacks by	1	2
Punts-average	6-31.3	4-37.0
Penalties-yards	8-100	5-50
Time of possession	27:08	32:52
Field goals made-attempted	2-2	1-2

RUSHING: REG—Graham Mosiondz 32-219, Teale Orban 4-6, Jordan Higgins 1-minus 29; AB—Tendayi Jozzy 21-109, Kendall Jeske 16-73 Damon Fraietta 1-9, Quade Armstrong 1-7, Luke Lavorato 1-2.

PASSING: REG—Teale Orban 12-24-1-229, Perri Scarcelli 1-1-0-minus 25; AB—Quade Armstrong 13-27-2-181.

RECEIVING: REG—Chris Getzlaf 3-98, Jordan Sisco 3-60, Chris Baumann 3-37, Chad Goldie 2-28, Sheldon Tillotsn 1-6, Chas Bonnor 1-minus 25; AB—Damon Fraietta 3-51, Aaron Holba 2-35, Jason Moss 2-15, Adam Cottrell 1-24, Ryan Michalenko 1-22, Kendall Jeske 1-12, Tim Heatherington 1-8, Symon Pfau 1-7, Luke Lavorato 1-7.



LIZ DURDEN

YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYONE Symon Pfau chases down Regina kicker Perri Scarcelli as the Rams failed on a trick play, resulting in a 25-yard loss.

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

Despite having the weather in their favour and home-field advantage, the Golden Bears football team relinquished a 24-10 first-half lead and saw their playoff hopes destroyed by the Regina Rams 36-25 at Foote Field on Saturday.

Alberta's hopes were high before the game when they saw the weather; the snow and blowing winds should have slowed the top-ranked Regina passing attack, and allowed the Bears to use their ground attack to control the ball and the clock.

"We felt that the weather would play pretty well into our strengths: that we'd be able to run fairly well and that it might take a little bit off Regina's passing game," fifth-year linebacker David Lowry said.

In the first half, the weather certainly worked in the Bears' favour. Regina players were slipping, and on more than one occasion bad snaps on punts left Regina scrambling in their backfield for a large loss on third down. Rams' quarterback Teale Orban, who leads CIS in passing yards, struggled to find the slippery hands of his receivers early on—that is until the last play of the first half.

With Alberta up 24-10, Orban fired a 38-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Sisco as time ran out in the second quarter. Alberta defensive backs seemed to stand idly by while Sisco stunned the home crowd with a goal line dive for the score. In the end, it was the play that derailed the Bears'

playoff hopes.

"It was a deep ball and we just ended up not making the play," Bears head coach Jerry Friesen said. "As the third quarter started going [Regina] created some momentum and we could never swing it back."

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little disappointed with this season. We have a solid core of talented guys that I thought would be able to get into the playoffs and make some noise."

DAVID LOWRY,
GOLDEN BEARS LINEBACKER

As the game wore on, and the weather got worse, Alberta struggled to generate any offence, but only got one point in the second half: a fourth-quarter rouge. The Regina defenders clamped down on Alberta's running game while Orban connected some long passes to put the game out of reach for the Bears.

Alberta finished the season with a 4-4 record, tied with UBC and Regina, but missed the playoffs because the other two teams had more points for than against amongst the three teams. This is the first time Alberta has missed the playoffs

since 2002, and a disappointing end to a roller-coaster season for the Bears.

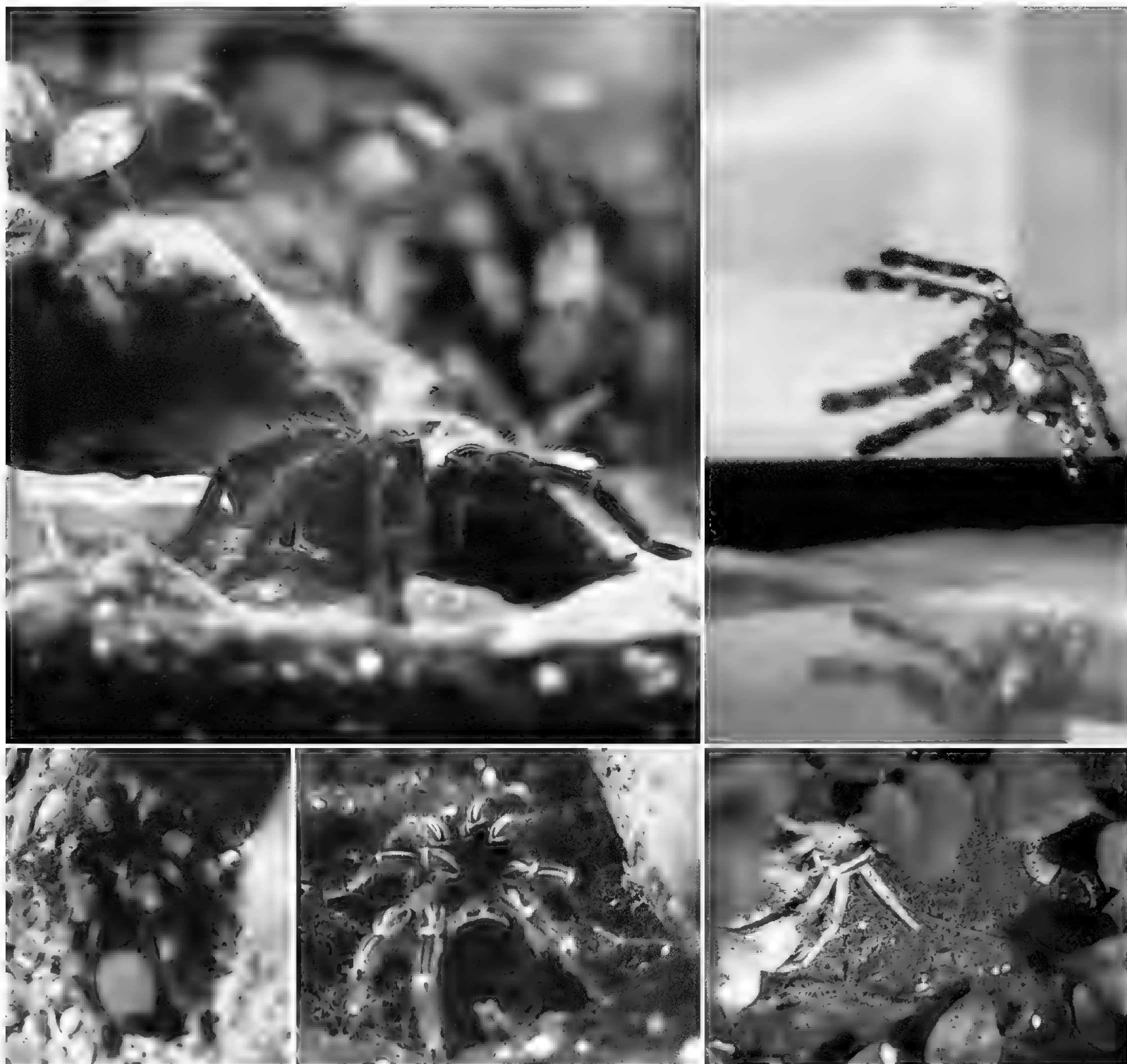
"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little disappointed with this season. We have a solid core of talented guys that I thought would be able to get into the playoffs and make some noise," said Lowry, who graduates this year. "We had opportunities in every game we played but we just fell a little bit short."

However, there were bright spots for the 2006 Bears, most notably was the run game, with Tendayi Jozzy (897 total yards) and Kendall Jeske (448 total yards) combining to put up the third best rushing attack in CIS. Their success was due to the strength of Alberta's offensive line making key blocks each game. Alberta's defensive line also had continued pressure in the backfield with Dan Bass leading the charge registering 60 tackles on the year, second in CIS. The main weakness this season seemed to be Alberta's inability to throw the ball. Their passing game ranked 13th in the league. Cam Linke and Quade Armstrong alternated at the quarterback position, but neither pivot seemed to fill the void that was left after Darryl Salmon graduated last season.

"Darryl was a hell of a quarterback last year," Jeske noted. "He was a great athlete with a great arm. Cam and Quade by no means are bad quarterbacks—but they weren't Darryl Salmon. We had to design our offence around what [Linke and Armstrong] could bring to the table. The quarterback situation was one area that the experience level dropped but there were also other areas that weren't as strong this year."

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 15 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ tuesday, 31 october, 2006



ALEENA REITSMA

WELCOME TO THE PARLOUR A selection of some of the wall-crawlers that have become an obsession for Craig Scott.

Web home to spider snapshot contest

OLESIA PLOKHII
News Writer

As Halloween night approaches, people are anticipating trick-or-treaters at their doorsteps, ghouls and goblins in their worst nightmares, and creepy visions of spiders spinning webs of havoc in all corners of the house. But for University of Alberta PhD candidate David Shorthouse, spiders are part of his everyday life.

The long-legged arachnids have become an passion of Shorthouse's, who developed an interest in spiders only after taking a course on entomology, the study of insects, at Carlton University in his third year of studies. His passion turned into obsession as he studied all sorts of arachnids, 600 species of which live in Alberta alone.

"Part of the problem with spiders is that they are so poorly known," he said.

Shorthouse estimated that there are more than three times the 36 000 distinct spider species currently known and catalogued by science.

Today, he's the proud founder of a unique annual newsletter called *The Canadian Arachnologist*, and owner of a popular website of the same name that recently wrapped up its second-annual spider photo contest.

"[The website's] something that I started out-of-pocket on the weekends

from grocery money," he said.

That small investment has now grown to be known worldwide, which Shorthouse says has offered him the chance to work on protecting spider habitats, some of which are threatened by forestry and mining operations. He's also involved in the design of biodiversity websites all over the world that keep track of the spider community to assess the health of their environment.

**"[The website's]
something that I
started out-of-pocket
on the weekends from
grocery money."**

**DAVID SHORTHOUSE,
PHD CANDIDATE**

"Spiders are predators, so they fit very strongly atop their food chains, and so whatever they eat is a good indication of the health of the ecosystem," Shorthouse said.

Via the website, Shorthouse has organized an arachnid competition that has generated a grand response. People all over the world sent in images of arachnids that were open to a public vote, with only one creepy-crawly weaving

its web of victory to the top. This year, Shorthouse registered an estimated 4500 votes that ranked submissions from South and North America, as well as India and Australia, but it was Edmontonian Joanne Bovee's photo of a crab spider underneath a pink flower petal that took the cake.

Shorthouse explained that he plans to produce a calendar and donate the bulk of the proceeds to the E H Strickland Entomological Museum, here at the U of A, or to the Royal Alberta Museum. This year's winning image, of a yellow crab spider that changes colour to adapt and evolve, will be featured on the cover of the 2006 calendar. Shorthouse explained that they're used for empirical study and are the subjects of continuous scientific research.

"Spider silk is one of the most tensile and strongest known substances, being 10-20 times stronger than steel at that equivalent diameter," Shorthouse explained, adding that the silk is being tested in its effectiveness in bullet-proof vests. Spider venom is also being experimented with in human cancer research, yet the minimal production of venom available hinders this scientific goal.

"Hopefully [the calendar] gets people thinking about [spiders] in a friendly manner, rather than rushing to squish it and flush it down the toilet," Shorthouse said.

Calgary calls for greater funding

Schools in Calgary cite runaway enrolment and lack of finances from province as serious problems

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

As enrolment rates rise and students are being turned away from postsecondary institutions in Alberta, some Calgary institutions are raising concerns that they're not getting a fair slice of provincial funding.

Julie Labonte, Vice-President (External) for the University of Calgary's Students' Union, said that the funding deficit is forcing the institution to turn away prospective students for lack of room.

"I think it was 6000 students that we had to turn away this year. We have the want and the demand to take on more [people], but we don't have the funding," Labonte said.

In a news release sent out in August, U of C announced that nearly 14 000 people applied for admission to the school. Most of the applicants were looking for spots in the school's

business and engineering programs. Labonte explained that this was one of the largest surges in enrolment that the U of C has seen in its 40-year history.

"We could have the ability, but we do need the additional funding to expand these classrooms. We do have a lot of space that could be utilized, but it needs to be modified, which of course costs money," she said.

While the school has plans to expand its current facilities and to create additional space for 7000 over the next four years, Labonte was concerned about those students currently turned down for admission.

"Basically, turning these people away is, in our eyes, a failure. We are failing these individuals, these people who want to better their life and want to obtain some sort of higher education and are being ... forced away," Labonte said.

PLEASE SEE **CALGARY** ♦ PAGE 2

CAUS criticizes Klein education comments

BILL LUTHI
News Writer

Comments made by Alberta's Premier on postsecondary affordability have sparked criticism from an organization representing university students in Alberta.

Premier Ralph Klein's comments were recorded by the *Calgary Herald's* Kelly Cryderman in a 13 October article.

"All I know is that we are funding postsecondary education at all levels adequately. Probably more per capita than any other jurisdiction in the world," Klein was quoted as saying in the article.

David Cournoyer, Students' Union Vice-President (External) and chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), recently criticized Klein's comments.

Cournoyer said that CAUS doesn't believe the comments made by Klein are accurate.

"It really is funny to see the provincial government, the Premier, talking about how good the system is when really, in reality, students are facing high debt loads, high tuition and large classrooms," Cournoyer said.

Cryderman also stated in the article

also stated the Ministry of Advanced Education was not able to provide figures that supported the Premier's assertion by the time that the article went to press.

Using statistics from the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), CAUS stated Alberta ranks third in 2004/05 funding nationally, behind British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

The *CAUT Almanac of Post Secondary Education 2006* is used to measure the levels of provincial funding given to colleges and universities per full-time equivalent student enrolments.

"Last year the Premier promised that Alberta would have the most affordable tuition in Canada," Cournoyer said.

Cournoyer added that Alberta's students have been waiting for a new tuition policy for 630 days, ever since the government announced a full review into Alberta's postsecondary system.

Cameron Traynor, spokesperson for Advanced Education, defended Klein's comments and disagreed with Alberta's third place ranking in funding.

PLEASE SEE **FUNDING** ♦ PAGE 4

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FEATURE, PAGES 9-14



Out in the cold

Andrew Renfree braved a blizzard to report on the Bears last chance at making the playoffs against Regina.

SPORTS, PAGE 19

GOLDEN BEARS & PANDAS SPORTS



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Pandas serve for success in sweep over Bobcats

JANELLE SLOYCHUK
Sports Writer

On the strength of 16 serve aces, the Pandas volleyball team opened their season with a weekend sweep against the Brandon Bobcats. Despite a wavering start to both Friday's and Saturday's game, the Panda's sloughed off the home-opener nerves and played with poise in the victories.

"I think we really picked up our service game. They were having a lot of trouble receiving our serves and we were passing theirs a lot better," said Pandas third-year left side Jocelyn Blair. "We just got more comfortable after we started to play. Some of the players who had trouble [during] the first set really stepped it up the rest of the game."

Blair accounted for three of the twelve Alberta aces on Friday night as the Pandas flat out-played the Bobcats on the way to victory. Blair—along with third-year outside hitter Tiffany Dodds—also dominated in kills all weekend with 28, two more than Dodds.

Still, despite winning the final six sets of the weekend, the Pandas

were given quite a scare in losing the first set on Friday 25-23 after falling behind 16-6.

"[Brandon] started really well both nights," said Panda's head coach Laurie Eisler. "[Friday] they were brilliant and we were bad. We were real nervous."

The Pandas however, shook off the nerves and rebounded after the early deficit.

"We can't give any team, no matter what ranking, a ten point lead," Dodds said. "After that [first set], I think we played great as a team. We were not as tentative on defence. Things were just going for us once we stuck to the tactics."

"I think we're better than they are," Eisler added. "I think our game is pretty balanced; like any team you've got your strengths, but we don't rely on one player."

Eisler was also careful to note that, while the Panda's service game may have been up to par, other technical skills were otherwise lacking.

"We're a good serving team, and this isn't an easy place to pass the ball—as you can see by our own passing, which wasn't great either—but I think we got them in more trouble as

they got us in, and we stayed aggressive as a match went on."

Still, it was evident that the Pandas were the better team on the court. They got away with their mistakes while capitalizing on those that Brandon made. They hit at a .326 clip, while Brandon only managed an attack percentage of .101 on the weekend. They attacked Brandon's young roster and forced head coach Lee Carter to make changes.

"We've got a couple of rookies, and they really picked on them—like Teagan [Hunter]—and that's their job: find the weak link and go after them," he said.

After hanging close in the first two sets on Saturday, losing 25-21 and 25-22, Brandon fell badly behind and was unable to recover. Carter credited Alberta's play with hamstringing the Bobcats ability to comeback.

"We had a shot at that second set and we played really well, and it ended on two silly errors. That takes the wind out of your sails and it took us a little bit to find some confidence and get back into it," Carter said. "A team like U of A doesn't let you get confidence."



PETE YEE

TIPPED OFF Kristin Jarock loses the opening tip against UVic at the Pandas Hoopfest last weekend. Alberta went 3-0.

THE PEP RALLY

By Paul Owen

Bears Soccer

Thanks to a 3-0 victory over UCFV and a 1-1 tie with TWU, the Bears (9-0-5) finished off their season with an undefeated record and earned the right to host the Canada West playoffs, in addition to Nationals. Whoever thinks that hosting soccer outdoors in November in Edmonton isn't all that bright. I mean, they better be using an orange ball or something, or it might get lost in the snow. Hell, 5'4" defender Quenton Zalazar might get lost in the snow.

Pandas Soccer

The Pandas (11-2-1) secured a second-place finish and first-round bye with a pair of victories over the same teams the Bears played, beating UCFV 1-0 and TWU 4-2. They finish the season having given up only eight goals, defending their net better than I defend my lead in the Gateway's RATT Burger tally.

Bears Basketball

Horwood's hardwooders finished off their pre-season in Calgary with games against some teams from Montana. After losing 67-66 to the College of Great Falls Montana on Friday, they responded by kicking the crap out of Great Falls' junior team. It's always good to get revenge against the jayvees, especially when it's by a score of 110-55. They finished up with a win over Montana Tech, 78-69. The Bears kick off their season at home this weekend against UCFV and TRU. Of course, I'm going to be in Winnipeg and miss it, because the schedules makers in CIS hate me.

Pandas Basketball

The Pandas also finished off an exhibition slate, participating in the Regina Cougars tournament. The Pandas knocked off Minot State 72-58, but fell to the hosts 67-57. A 79-31 thrashing of Brandon was in order after the loss. It's good to see the Bobcats have kept up their tradition of being the worst team in the CIS. More importantly, after rookies Jenny Brauer and Leigha Bedford were left out of action at the Hoopfest tournament last weekend, both got to play, sparingly, in Regina.

After rookies Marisa Heylett and Katie Barrett impressed at Hoopfest, I feel a little disappointed I didn't get to see all the new Pandas in action.

Cross-Country

The Bears and Pandas both participated in the Stewart Run at the University of Calgary this weekend. Both teams placed third. The real Alberta story comes from the Bears alumni, who won the team race and placed four runners in the top 21 racers. Apparently the old runners are much better than the new ones. Maybe that's why they won all those medals at nationals.

Swimming

Taking on a team that actually lives near water, the Alberta squads were humbled with a pair of losses against the SFU Clan. The men fell 77-51, while the women lost 90-75. The silver lining is that the weekend saw two Albertans—Jan-Iok Chang and Katarina Symes—qualify for Nationals.

I haven't been a swimming fan for years, ever since I went off the diving board and came up without my trunks.



ERINNE FENWICK

BEATEN Golden Bear Tyler Metcalfe goes around Bison defender Joshua Belair in action Saturday.

Veterans help puck Bears dismiss Bisons

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

Behind two-goal nights from Ben Kilgour and Richard Hamula, the Golden Bears hockey squad swept the Manitoba Bisons out of Clare Drake Arena this weekend with a 4-2 victory on Friday and a 6-4 final on Saturday.

Kilgour notched a pair on Friday, including the game winner early in the third on a back-door pass from Hamula, and set up a third goal. He added another goal and assist on Saturday as Alberta came back from a 3-2 deficit.

"Kilgour was tremendous; he was a big difference out there. He's a leader and we need offensive punch from [him] to be going," Bears head coach Eric Thurston said.

Hamula was the major player on Saturday. His power play marker early in the third tied the game at three, and his shorthanded goal at 9:09 of the third wound up as the winner.

"Those are our key guys [scoring the goals]," Thurston said of Hamula, Kilgour and second-year Dylan Stanley who had a goal and three assists Saturday night. "It shows the young guys what it takes to win and that you have to bring your best game, you can't expect it to be handed to you because you're the Golden Bears."

Alberta built 2-0 after the first period both nights, and while they managed to hang on to the lead for the entire game Friday, a string of penalties in the second period on Saturday left

them short-handed for an eight minute stretch. Manitoba (2-6-0) scored three consecutive goals in a span of 2:53 while playing five-on-three.

"You lose your whole flow and momentum from rolling your lines [when you go two men down]. I hate it. I thought we'd adapt a little better [to the new rules], and we need to make sure that we don't take a mental break, and we did that in the second period," Thurston said.

"We dug ourselves a hole, and it's unacceptable when we're playing a man down or two men down for almost a whole period," added Hamula, who was on the ice for all three Manitoba goals in the second.

Goaltender Aaron Sorochan came up big for the Bears during the power plays, allowing four shots past him but stopping 47 more—28 in the second period—on the way to victory.

"Sorochan gives us a chance to win every night," Thurston said. "If you get that type of goaltending, you got to have our other guys know that he's paying the price and they have to step up and do it too."

"Their goalie was outstanding; he was the difference in the game—especially in the second period," Bisons coach Don MacGillivray added.

The pair of victories keeps Alberta one point ahead of Calgary (6-2-0) atop the Canada West Mountain Division standings. Kilgour's five-point weekend moves him into a four-way tie for the conference lead in points (13) with Stanley and Calgary's Jarret Lukin and Ryan Annesley.



JESSE WHITEHEAD

PEEKABOO Joel Schmuland (airborne) prepares for a kill while showing off his treasure trail.

Volley Bears sweep Bobcats in six

Pair of straight-set victories to start season bodes well for revamped Alberta squad led by Schmuland, Proudfoot

VERONICA DOLEMAN
Sports Staff

As the temperature continued to drop over the weekend in the city of Edmonton, the Golden Bears volleyball team kept the Main Gym nice and toasty. The first games of the season were not disappointing for the Bears, as they came away with a pair of straight-set victories against the University of Brandon Bobcats.

Friday night saw a dominating performance from Alberta, winning 25-14, 25-14 and 25-16. According to Bobcats head coach Russ Paddock, Brandon wasn't good enough to stay with Alberta. "We're playing against one of the top teams in the country. We're in a beginning program; this is just our second year in the league. We've got a lot of young players and we're playing against a better opponent in their gym," he said.

Part of the Bears success was their strong service game. Right side, Joel Schmuland scored four aces the first night, and Alberta had 16 aces throughout the weekend.

"We did a really good job with serving and they had a hard time serve receiving. That was the biggest thing; it allowed us to block and play defence pretty well. I think [the Bobcats] are a team that has a lot of potential," Bears head coach Terry Danyluk explained. "First contact [is] an important part of the game; we handled their serves pretty well and they didn't pass so well. If they get those two parts of their game

together, I think they can be pretty good."

Even though the Bears have gone through some changes, they have yet to show signs of trouble adjusting this year. Fifth-year Bears middle, Derek Proudfoot already believes Alberta has a strong chance at success this season.

"Everyone worked really hard and we didn't let balls hit the ground. We're playing really well together and as long as we keep improving we should be able to [win]." Proudfoot said.

Saturday night saw a near repeat performance from Alberta as they took the first two sets by lopsided scores of 25-15 and 25-16. Brandon was able to hang with the Bears a little longer in the third set before they bowed out 25-19. Despite failing to win a set, the Bobcats still have some positives they can draw from the weekend.

"We came in here hoping to have some better results, but we were up against a tough opponent, we know that. It certainly gives us an indication of where we need to go," Paddock said.

Danyluk, meanwhile, though his team had a very successful weekend.

"Different guys played well different nights. Thomas Jarmoc was twelve for 14 [Saturday], which is pretty good for an outside hitter," he said. "[Friday] night, Tim Gourlay played pretty well, [and] Joel Schmuland picked up his game a little bit on the offensive side."

"[This weekend] gives us a good starting point and we can only go up from here." Proudfoot added.

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Bears go out like lambs in their final game

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

After their final game of the season Saturday, the Alberta football locker room was the quietest it's been for a long while. No music, no conversations, just quiet reflection on a frustrating end to a frustrating season.

As the players removed their equipment for the last time this year, the seven graduating players snuck out of the locker room for one last photo after their last time on the field together. David Lowry, Kendall Jeske, Jason James, Jason Moss, Luke Lavorato, Brett Sparrow and Neil Ternovatsky stood out in the blowing snow while the scoreboard at Foote Field glowed 36-25 in the background as a reminder of the disappointing way in which these guys ended their CIS careers. They struggled to put their emotions into words when they came back into the locker room.

"Right now, the game hasn't hit me yet. The fact that I'm done hasn't hit me yet," Jeske said.

"If it had been a win, it would have been a different scenario, but with the loss and not going on, it's hard to really explain the feeling," Lowry said. "A little bit of loss, a little bit of sadness, a little bit of wishing we could still be together for a few more games."

The seven graduating players were the most sombre after the loss, and their teammates patted them on the shoulders as they left the dressing room—a nonverbal "thanks for everything" that every athlete understands. While this group was the most emotional, they can take solace in the fact that they were an integral part in transforming the U of A football program over the last five years.

In 2002, when the bulk of '06 grads started with the team, Alberta posted an abysmal record of 1-7. The



LIZ DURDEN

ONE MORE FOR THE ROAD David Lowry(34) assists on one of the last tackles of his CIS career. Lowry was one of seven Golden Bears who played their last game.

Bears have steadily improved since that rough season, posting a combined record of 25-13 in the past four years. Alberta went on to the Canada West Championship games from 2003-2005, but did not advance to the national semi-final any of those years.

"All seven of those graduating players were just huge contributors to the change of the program, and they're going to be missed a lot," Bears head coach Jerry Friesen said. "These guys were all here when things started to change and they contributed right through it. We have some big holes to

fill next year."

For some, the game Saturday may have been the last time they put on a football helmet. Jeske, who finished his career with 2060 punt-return yards, an Alberta record, has his sights set on teaching and coaching high school football. James, a standout in the Alberta secondary during his tenure, strives for the CFL.

"Personally there are two things I could do now: just give up, or take this off-season to work harder and try and take the shot at the next level. Hopefully somebody will give me a

shot," James noted adding that if football doesn't pan out, he can fall back on his masters degree in public health, which he will complete this year.

Lowry, on the other hand, was drafted by the BC Lions last year but was unsuccessful in his bid to crack the lineup. Still, his impressive CIS stats (at least 40 tackles in the last four seasons) garnered the attention of CFL scouts, and the 6'3" linebacker is now be a free agent and will consider offers from various CFL teams.

"I definitely want to continue on to the next level and play, so the ball's in

their court now," Lowry noted.

"It's going to be tough to be out of this locker room and not with these guys, 'cause they're like family to me and they have been for five years," Lowry added.

"These guys are a whole lot of fun," Jeske said. "So many memories: road trips, hanging out in SUB at school, just goofing off—that's what a football team does. You come in, you make a lot of good friends and you'll keep those friends for the rest of your life. Running into these guys at a reunion will just be great; I can't wait."



PETE YEE

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE Quade Armstrong isn't the Bears' answer at QB.

QB's football team's weakest Linke

ROSS
PRUSAKOWSKI

Sports
Commentary

As soon as the last down was finished and their playoff hopes dashed for the first time in three years, players and coaches from the Golden Bears football team were already counselling fans to wait for next year.

Yet, after four seasons of being a good, but not great, Canada West team, it's beginning to look like mediocrity is what the immediate future has in store for the Golden Bears. This is a symptom not of the calibre of players wearing the Green and Gold on the field, but of head coach Jerry Friesen's poor recruiting of the quarterback position—where struggles from both pivots prevented the Bears from making the playoffs and killed the team's chances to win games all year.

While some may dispute how much the skill-deficiency at the quarterbacking affected the team given that the Bears finished 4-4, it's only thanks to a stellar offensive line and running game that Alberta's offence wasn't completely horrid. In a seven team conference, they managed to finish with the fifth overall offence, averaging just over 371-yards per game. However, only the putrid Simon Fraser Clan and an inexperienced Calgary Dinos squad averaged fewer yards; every other team racked

up at least 440-yards per game.

Because of the team's poor quarterback situation, there was no one to fill the massive void left by the departure of Daryl Salmon. On its own, the passing offence ranked dead last in the conference and the Bears backfield threw the most interceptions in the league. These sins could at least be excused if the Bears were breaking in a promising talent at quarterback like Calgary was with talented rookie Dalin Tollestrup, but it's fairly obvious that neither Cam Linke nor Quade Armstrong are—or ever will be—in the top tier of quarterbacking talents in Canada West.

Armstrong may eventually turn out to be a serviceable back-field leader, but after red-shirting and being around the offence for two years he still looked out of place all season long. His tendency to throw interceptions, rather than throw the ball into the stands, when facing a sack was backbreaking for the Bears and doesn't exactly inspire confidence for the future.

Friesen and the team have been promoting him as the successor to Salmon, but where Salmon had a track record of success in high school, Armstrong only played a single year as quarterback in high school. By anointing him as the future of the Bears, Friesen has taken a big gamble—one that, after this season, he appears to be losing—that Armstrong will ultimately learn how to effectively run an offence and develop a strong enough mental side to match his cannon of an arm.

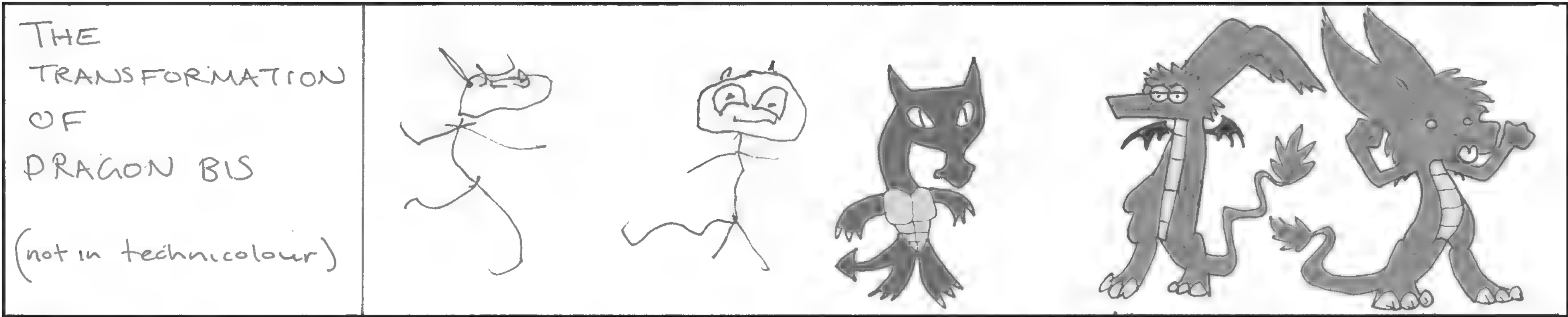
While there's still a chance that Armstrong will become a decent

starter—though the early returns haven't been good—it's astounding and mind-boggling that Friesen has held onto Cam Linke. Aside from one magical performance in a playoff game in 2003, Linke has never provided any reason to believe that he could be a serviceable quarterback at the CIS level. Lacking the arm strength necessary to stretch the field and no scrambling ability to threaten defences on the ground, Linke was always a questionable choice by Friesen to carry the mantle between the departure of Salmon and the arrival of Armstrong.

Despite his faults, Friesen has stood by Linke, only to be repaid with the worst quarterbacking performance from a regular starter in Canada West. Not only did he average a paltry 46.9 completion percentage, but Linke also earned the dubious distinction of being the only starting quarterback to average fewer yards of offence per game than his running back. His 108 yards were four fewer than Tendayi Jozzy.

There's no debating that during his tenure Friesen has pulled the Alberta football program out of the basement and into the thick of competition in Canada West; however, no matter how strong a defence or offensive line that he manages to cobble together, until Friesen can once again find or develop a reliable starting quarterback, the Bears are always going to be struggling for their playoff lives. Because, no matter how hard you sugarcoat it, no one's likely believe that Cam Linke or Quade Armstrong will ever get the Bears very far into the post-season.

BITTEN by Robin Sissons



BEEF WAGON by Harold Pacheco



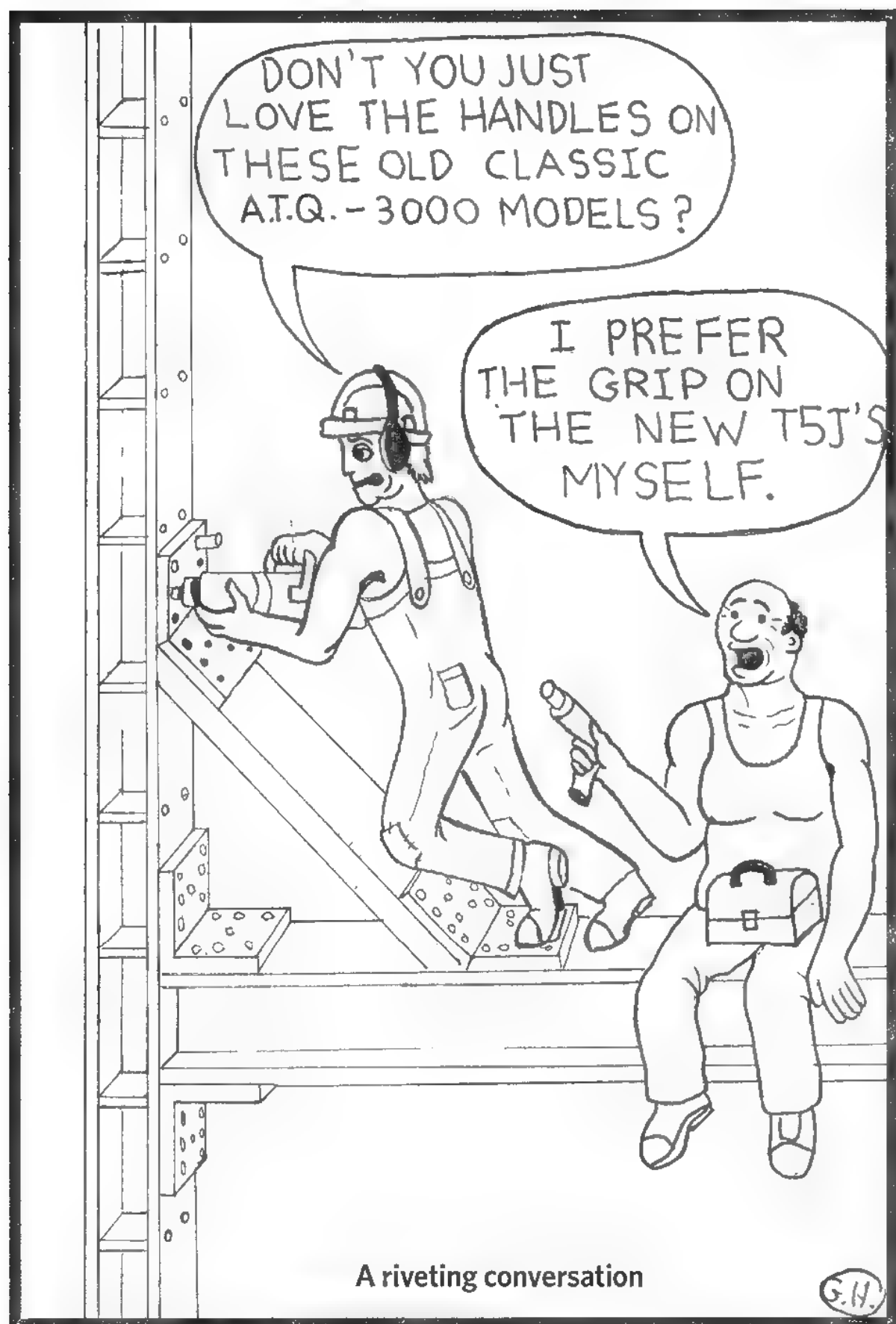
STICKMAN by Jonn Gagnon



QUEER by Marie-Annick Jean



GRATUITOUS GROANERS by Philip & Graeme Head



SYNAPSE by Liv Vors



STEVE NASH LIVING & LOVING by Braden Deane (CUP)



BASTARD SAMURAI by Andrew Curley



RENT-A-THUG by Jeff Martin



F-RAY by Fraser Tingle



KRIS IS SO REMOTE by Brad Sime



CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please go to www.campusclassifieds.ca

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Looking for a place to live? Check out www.rentingspaces.ca to find your next home! Hundreds of current listings throughout Edmonton. A service of your Students' Union.
3 bedroom townhouse to share in Ca'ngwood near WEM. Preferred female. Call Jaco at 628-4102 or 905-3484

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EMPLOYMENT - FULL TIME

Big A's Aquarium Services has openings for full-time and part-time sales and cashier positions. Flexible hours, employee benefits, discounts, and competitive wages make us a perfect fit for you. Apply in person at 3511-99st or fax at 433-4575 or call 435-3474.

Hudsons on campus is hiring for a position. Apply in person at 11113-87 Ave. Ask For Brett or Jarrett. No experience needed.

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If you are looking for a full or part-time position that will work around your class schedule that offers an excellent wage, gratuities, incentives and bonuses, why not become a banquet server/bartender and/or driver for A Cappe a Catering. A valid driver's license is required. Apply to k@m.acappella.ab.ca or fax 454.2748.

The Idea Student Job. Hughes Car Wash / Gas Station is hiring Flexible Weekend and Weekday Station Attendants at our various locations in Edmonton. We are the industry's best paying employer. Apply at any location, or e-mail resume to nr@hugnespetroleum.com. www.hugnespetroleum.com

At a Care Resources needs compassionate and energetic people to work with youth in our city. Flexible hours, pay starts at \$15, and free training. Call Brand 451-6040 ext 230 or www.altacareresources.com

Domestic help needed. \$11+/hour. 103st/87ave. 4-6 hour shifts; 1-2 shifts/week, eve/weekends. Honest reliable only. Phone 288-5068

Westgate YMCA Out-of-School Care

Program by Westmount Mall is looking for morning staff to work from 7-9am, M-F. Choose the days that work for you. Call 429-5705 and ask for Candace if interested or email cape@edmonton.ymca.ca Free YMCA membership.

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We are currently seeking a permanent part-time (15 hours/week, Thursdays and Saturdays) receptionist for our busy downtown clinic. Applicant must be energetic, flexible, reliable, motivated, organized and knowledgeable in computer work. Please send resume to Attn: Saara at 5846-111st Edmonton, AB T6H 3G1, via fax 780-433-1890 or e-mail

atneatn@te.us.net

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Cultura Connections Institute - The Learning Exchange is looking for volunteers to teach English as a Second Language to adult newcomers to Canada. Orientation and training is provided. Morning, afternoon, and evening shifts available. Call 944-0792

Volunteer Assistant for Kids Karate Cup, ages 6-12. One hour/week Thursdays 9pm, two blocks from U of A Campus. 2+ years experience in any Martial Art. E-mail WPKKC Sensei@notma.com or phone Gordon at 492-9930 (weekdays).

PERSONALS

Single? Try speed dating with Engtmintedate on / Nov at Dante's Bistro. Register at 457-8535 or www.engtmintedate.ca

THE GATEWAY

tuesday, 31 october, 2006
volume XCVII number 15

Published since 21 november, 1910
Circulation 12 000
ISSN 0845-356X

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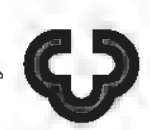
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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway, Student Journal Society (GJSJS), a student-run autonomous association not-for-profit organization operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.



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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Jmax, PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan opt. ca. film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. And Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned direct, y, to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler, and Whitney. The Mandoban is the Gateway's sister paper and newsletter, though, though not in that way, The Gateway's games of choice are Minesweeper and SimCity 4.

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Researchers give moniker to mystery mammal

DEREK LARSON
News Writer

A previously unknown species of the natural world, millions of years old, has been uncovered by University of Alberta researchers. What they've found is surprising, and it's brought much public attention to this often low-key branch of paleontology.

Horolodectes sunae, a new ancient mammal from the Paleocene Epoch (right after the dinosaurs went extinct), was named and described in a scientific paper in September by Craig Scott, a PhD student in the Department of Biological Sciences, though precious little of the skeleton has been found. Scott described the difficulties of understanding the mammal without more to go on.

"Did it jump? Did it live in trees? Was it a fast runner? We don't know any of that. We have no post-cranial bones [bones that aren't part of the skull] ... so all we have to go on is teeth," Scott explained.

With just this small amount of material, though, paleontologists can still discover a lot about the animal.

"It was maybe between 15–20cm long with the tail," Scott said. "And that seems by today's comparisons quite small ... but when you consider

that most of the mammals living in the Paleocene were the size of a shrew or mouse, it's quite large. It probably dined on insects or maybe insect larvae; given that it was probably larger than most other things at the time, it may have eaten other small vertebrates."

There are two main reasons why this fossil critter has received so much public interest. The first is a question of its family tree.

"*Horolodectes* is completely new to science—there's nothing else like it," Scott related. "We had initially thought that it might be a member of a group of mammals that eventually gave rise to modern ungulates: horses, cows, deer, pigs, that sort of thing, [but] once we discovered more mostly complete specimens with many teeth in the jaw, we knew that it didn't have anything to do with ungulates at all. But that being said, we still didn't know exactly where to put it."

The second exciting thing about the animal is its location. Though rocks from this particular time are found and studied in many places in Canada and the United States, specimens of *Horolodectes*, of which there are about 40, have only been found in three separate localities, all located



CLAUDIA TOMCZYK

NOTHING BUT THE TOOTH Researchers don't have much more to work with.

in Alberta.

And concerning the new animal's popularity in the media, Scott was quite positive.

"We really didn't think at the time when we published it that it would garner this much attention.

[Mammals] get over-shadowed by the dinosaurs, and [paleomammalogy] is another interesting part of the whole ancient ecosystem that deserves to be publicized and be talked about," Scott said, adding that he is pleased about the media attention.

Alberta's universities not 'carbon copies': Cournoyer

Different schools offer different programs, which may account for funding differences, says CAUS chair

CALGARY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A report created by the postsecondary institutions in Calgary has pointed out that they receive much less funding from the province than those in Edmonton, to the tune of the 11 473 fewer student spaces in total. Labonte explained that this translates to the Alberta government providing 1.5 times more funding per student for U of A students compared to those attending the U of C.

But Cameron Traynor, spokesman for Advanced Education, explained that there was reasoning behind the differences in funding, as the two centres don't draw in the same numbers of students from outside city limits. He explained that different regions created different options for prospective students, was 26 per cent of U of A students come from

outside of Edmonton, while Calgary's rate was less than half that, at 12 per cent of students from beyond the city limits.

"The reality is that, for students in southern Alberta, there are more schools and universities to choose from. They can go to Calgary or they can decide to go to, say, the University of Lethbridge. But in northern Alberta, there aren't as many choices. There is Edmonton, and that's about it," Traynor said.

Dave Cournoyer, chair of the Council of Alberta University Students and Vice-President (External) for the U of A Students' Union, noted that the different institutions around the province have different departments and areas of study, which can affect the amount of funding needed from the province.

"The universities do offer different programs. Like the U of A and its density program; it offers more professional programs, and those cost the university more. I think it's important to remember that the universities are not carbon copies of one another," Cournoyer said.

He went on to say that the problems in Calgary were indicative of a bigger problem.

"It's a widespread problem through the whole system. The U of C is experiencing growing pains. So is Edmonton. Grand Prairie too. It's really a failure of the provincial government to step up to the plate and properly fund postsecondary education," he said.

In the end, however, officials at the U of C don't wish to focus on the differences between the two cities,

but advocate cooperation. Roman Cooney, Vice-President (External Relations) for the U of C, said that a united front would be much more effective.

"We don't want this to be about what Calgary is getting opposed to what Edmonton is getting. It would be much more effective to work together. I want to stress: it isn't a competition," Cooney said.

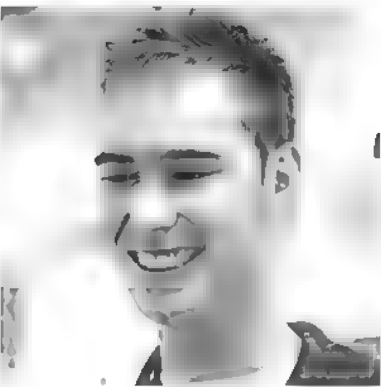
Labonte echoed Cooney's sentiments about co-operation between regions.

"I know there have been people who have been worried about approaching the issue because it will cause a division between the cities. I don't think that's fair. I don't think there has to be a division. We can work together to make sure that every one is taken care of properly," Labonte concluded.

STREETERS

Charles Simonyi, the billionaire behind Microsoft Word and Excel, is paying \$20-25 million US to be the next space tourist.

What would you give to go to space?



Kyle Maskewich
Arts II

I would give up ice cream for a year, [and] it's my study food.



Jeff Jamieson
Science II

A testicle and my first-born child.



Amanda
Nickless
Science IV

I don't really want to go to space. I'm kind of scared of space—it seems like there's a lot of things that can go wrong in space.



Vanessa Dorsey
Phys Ed III

I would give \$20 000 [maximum] because I don't really want to go to space, it's not really that important to me.

Vet school opening delayed

Plans to open province’s first veterinary school stalled until next year as the University of Calgary faces up against various funding and operational issues

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

Alberta students will have to wait until 2008 to study veterinary medicine in the province after the University of Calgary has delayed the opening of its newest faculty in order to tie together all the loose ends. The faculty was expected to open in September 2007.

“We recognize that there will be a number of students who are disappointed that it’s another year before the program starts, but really, when we looked into it, it’s the quality that’s most important,” said Alastair Cribb, who was appointed dean of the developing faculty in May 2006.

There’s currently only one veterinary school in Western Canada, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) at the University of Saskatchewan. WCVN prioritizes students from the Western provinces, who each fund spaces for their residents. The college receives approximately 350 applications every year but there are only 71 spaces available. The number of applicants admitted is determined by an allotment system: Alberta gets 20 seats, British Columbia 15, Manitoba 13 and Saskatchewan 20. Applications for the new veterinary faculty are geographically restricted, so the only students that can apply are Alberta residents.

“We probably won’t have to recruit students because the interest is so high we’re going to be overwhelmed with applications. I have no doubt,” Cribb said.

Tracy Palsma, a fourth-year biological sciences student at the U of C, applied at WCVN last year and will be applying again this year. She said that she would

prefer to study veterinary medicine in Calgary because of the program’s focus on large animals, but waiting until 2008 is not an option unless she doesn’t get accepted at WCVN.

“We probably won’t have to recruit students because the interest is so high we’re going to be overwhelmed with applications. I have no doubt.”

**ALASTAIR CRIBB,
DEAN OF U OF C’S
VETERINARY FACULTY**

Initially a three-year program, the U of C has since expanded it to four years, after recommendations from the American Veterinary Medical Association, who provides accreditation for all veterinary schools in North America.

“There are certain advantages to a three-year curriculum, but what it really does is it compresses the timeline,” Cribb said, explaining that the condensed program doesn’t give students breaks in the summer. “That can be extremely stressful for students; what it ends up requiring is an increased need for prerequisites for students before they enter the program.”

Cribb explained that prerequisites for the new program have been kept to a minimum, allowing students eligibility after two years of study. But Palsma is skeptical about students applying after only their second year because of

the strenuous interview process.

“I think getting the full degree and having those extra years to mature and find out more about who you are is pretty beneficial to someone in the interview process,” Palsma said.

Danyse Lewis, another fourth-year biology student at the U of C, applied at WCVN last year too, and like Palsma is planning to apply at Calgary’s new veterinary school in 2008.

“I don’t mind waiting two years. I’m just really excited to be part of it if they do accept me,” she said. “I think that the first round of students is going to be experimental a little bit, so I think that it’s probably a good thing that they have all of their buildings in place and all of their faculty together. It’s probably better to start more organized than rushed,” she said.

The U of C plans to submit their accreditation documents in the spring, but first they need to secure funding. The government has already committed \$16 million for infrastructure and \$46.8 million for operating costs, but Cribb said that the faculty requires an additional \$64 million.

“By early spring we need to have the commitment from the government,” Cribb said. “We’re anticipating receiving the funds.”

Michael Shields, director of communication at Alberta Advanced Education, hinted that the request for more money would be granted.

“Minister [Denis] Herard has identified the veterinary school as being part of the next capital plan,” Shields said, explaining that the government’s commitment so far is indicative of things to come in the 2007 budget announcement, which will comprise of the three-year capital plan.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Mike Otto

THE RASH CREAM DOESN’T CURE

A number of bike thefts were reported on campus from 8–20 October. Pricy pedal-powered machines were pilfered from the west side of Schaffer Hall, the Civil/Electrical Engineering building—now also known as Physics—and near the Tory building. Campus Security recommends the use of secure U-style locks, and says students should keep their eyes peeled for suspicious characters lurking near bike racks.

NOT YOUR PERSONAL NAPPY SPOT

At 1am on 17 October, Campus Security found a male sawing logs on a couch near a HUB Mall stairwell. He was found to have a history of violence, no University affiliation, and was given a free escort off campus.

RETURN OF THE SATURNS?

On 19 October, an abandoned vehicle was reported at 85 Avenue and 112 Street. The sight of the ignition and steering column bits on the passenger seat confirmed that the vehicle was indeed stolen. On 12 October, another suspicious vehicle was seen parked in the area of 111 Street and 87 Avenue. Campus Security investigated and found the keys sitting on the passenger seat. Both incidents were reported to Edmonton Police.

NOT WORTH THE SAVINGS

On 19 October, Parking Services found

a car with an altered permit displayed in the N zone parking lot east of HUB Mall. The ambitious owner of the vehicle had changed the permit date from 17 October in an attempt to save the cost of daily parking. Parking Services was less than impressed with the student’s antics; the vehicle was towed and the student was fined \$550.

I FOUGHT THE LAW AND THE LAW WON

At 9am on 19 October, a male and female were found sleeping in the stairwell between the 15th and 16th floors of Newton Place—clearly not residents. The man had a criminal history involving violence and property damage; when the two were served with trespass notices the male tore his up and threw it on the ground. The constable responded by giving the man a littering ticket.

RETURN OF THE NEWTON AVENGER

At 8pm on 24 October, another—perhaps familiar looking—male was seen loitering near the entrance to Newton Place. He was unco-operative with Campus Security and was found to have a criminal background involving violence. He was trespassed from campus.

I WAS JUST OILING IT, HONEST

At 12pm on 26 October, a male was reported loitering around a bike rack near the southeast corner of SUB. Those hanging around bike racks seldom have pure intentions, and Campus Security responded. It was alleged he had cut a cable lock; CSS located the man near the east side of Physical Education, and as he had an extensive criminal record and a not-so-extensive affiliation with the University, he was escorted off

campus property.

GRAND THEFT PETTY CASH

On 26 or 27 October, a break-in at an unspecified location in the lower level of SUB was perpetrated. A small amount of cash was stolen and Edmonton Police are getting their investigation on. Unknown persons also tried unsuccessfully to break into the west doors of Assiniboia Hall, damaging the doors in the process.

A COKE DEAL OF ANOTHER KIND

On 27 or 28 October, a number of campus vending machines were pillaged and vandalized. The machines damaged were located in the ET/C/Mechanical Engineering pedway, Mechanical Engineering, SUB, University Hall and the Tory/Business Atrium. The total amount of cash stolen is unknown. Campus Security is seeking a suspect seen in the Tory Atrium, described as a 20–25 year old male, with a black ball cap, light blue plaid shirt and baggy beige pants.

A SLUMBER PARTY OF ONE

At 1am on 30 October, a male was found sleeping in a HUB Mall stairwell. He had a criminal record involving weapons and property offences—and probably using property as a weapon—and was escorted off campus.

AND THE HORSE YOU RODE IN ON

At 1:44am on 30 October, Campus Security responded to calls that a male was harassing staff near CAB. He was unsurprisingly found to have no University affiliation, and in addition to being generally annoying, was known for sleeping and loitering on campus. He was escorted to Whyte Avenue.

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FACT:

Hoodstar rapper, Chingy, claims to own over 4000 pairs of sneakers and his mega dance-floor hit "Ass N Da Aurr" continues to turn up the heat.

FACT:

The *Gateway* news teams may not own a lot of shoes — but we can spell.

GATEWAY NEWS

Confused by rappers' use of the English language since 1910.

Come join our hood: 3-04 SUB.

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UNIVERSITY of TORONTO



JENNY FROGNER

DRAGON ITS HEELS Celebrations and dancing beasts marked the opening of the U of A's China Institute last Monday.

NEWS BRIEFS

FOOD BANK GETTING READY TO SCARE UP DONATIONS WITH TRICK OR EAT

Just when you thought you were too old to go trick-or-treating, the University of Alberta Campus Food Bank's eleventh annual Trick or Eat drive gives you the chance to dress up and give back to the community.

Approximately 100-150 volunteers will be going door to door this evening to collect food and toiletry donations in the University neighbourhoods of Windsor Park, Belgravia, Garneau and Queen Alexandra.

The goal is to collect enough donations to match last year's total of 9500 lbs of food. Proceeds will benefit the Campus Food Bank, the Edmonton Food Bank and the Leduc Food Bank.

According to Madeline Bachmann, executive director of the Campus Food Bank, Trick or Eat's success has much to do with its relation to Halloween festivities.

"From the standpoint of the volunteers, it's just a lot of fun," Bachmann said. "You get to dress up, go out trick-or-treating [and] spend a night out with your friends having fun."

Preparations have been underway since the beginning of September. Students also participated in a flyer

drop-off two weeks ago to give households the opportunity to gather donations before the 31st.

"The community sees it as a great, fun event too with the nice twist on Halloween," Bachmann said. "[Trick or Eat] makes it really easy for them to help out because they're answering their door bells anyway."

In addition to collecting food and toiletry donations, Bachmann hopes the event will raise awareness about hunger in the University community. Of the estimated 158 000 without a proper food supply in Edmonton, 30 200 are in the university-student age range.

Those who live outside the University area but would still like to donate are encouraged to drop off any food or toiletry items at the Campus Food Bank's office, located in the basement of SUB. Non-perishable items are preferred for donation.

Any students interested in volunteering for Trick or Eat are welcome to visit www.su.ualberta.ca/campus-foodbank for more details.

Jennifer Huygen, News Writer

U OF A OPENS NEW CHINA INSTITUTE

The University of Alberta has ushered into a new era of Canadian-Chinese relations with the launch of the University of Alberta China Institute on 24 October.

The China Institute has a collection of rare Chinese artifacts, clothing and textiles that are thousands of years old.

Minister of Education, Gene Zwozdesky, who was present at the launch ceremonies, explained that the purpose of such a collection is to put Alberta on the "cultural map," as well as to increase scholastic research in the fields of the burgeoning superpower.

"[I]t's one of the largest collections of ancient Chinese treasures, anywhere, [and] that means we will be able to attract scholars from all around the world, as well as students who wants to be scholars," Zwozdesky said.

In April 2005, Sandy and Cecile Mactaggart donated their collection of rare Chinese textiles and artifacts, worth \$3.7 million, to the U of A, forming the basis for the institute.

"If there is any country that can squeeze a hundred years into one second, it is China," Cecile Mactaggart affirmed during the launch of the institute.

She hopes the institute will become the epicentre of Chinese research in all of North America, and possibly a leader of Chinese research in the world.

Under the mandate of the Access to the Future Fund, private philanthropy is to be matched by the government, who will soon be doling out the cash to the University.

Jaskaran Singh, News Writer

Alberta leads funding: Traynor

FUNDING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We're second highest in postsecondary spending after Saskatchewan, but this doesn't factor in the 19 per cent increase in postsecondary funding Alberta put in place [for the 2006/07] year which was the highest percentage increase in postsecondary spending in the country," Traynor said.

He also noted that Alberta had the Access to the Future Fund, a \$1 billion endowment set aside for postsecondary education.

Traynor provided the *Gateway* with 2005/06 statistics to support Klein's comments, comparing Alberta's postsecondary expenditures with other provinces on a population per capita basis. But said he couldn't provide data per full-time equivalent student, stating that Statistics Canada hasn't published college enrolment data since 1999/00. Traynor also drew attention to a note in the CAUT report, regarding the data used by CAUS.

"The footnote mentions that the data in the chart is based on college enrolment projections from 2000/01 to 2004/05," Traynor explained. "The organization would have done these projections itself, not Statistics Canada, and [therefore] I can't speak to accuracy of them."

Cournoyer explained why the numbers from CAUT and Traynor were different.



KIM SMITH

THE EYES OF POWER Cournoyer doesn't think Klein's comments hit the mark.

"[The statistics from Traynor] is per population and what we're looking at is students actually in the postsecondary education system. I think that is really important differentiation," Cournoyer explained.

He added that the provincial government was providing funds equivalent to \$12 000 per student, a number he said was down from numbers in years previous.

However, Traynor further defended Klein's statements by pointing to Alberta's level of scholarship funding.

"Alberta puts more public dollars towards scholarships on a per capita

basis than any other province, through the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund," Traynor said.

In the end, however, Cournoyer argued that student debt was the best indication of how much funding the province is providing.

"What we see is a lot of students who come in with a lot of scholarships at the beginning of their education, but come their second and third years, the scholarships aren't there and a lot of students are forced to turn towards the student loans system which in turn leaves them graduating with large debt levels," he said.

Modern science only complicates abortion debate

WITH ALL OF THE ADVANCES IN SCIENCE AND technology these days, anything is possible. We have vaccines for diseases, we have intricate machinery that can sustain human life, and we even have the benefit of foretelling what sorts of problems babies will have before they're even born.

A lot of complications in childbirth can be assessed ahead of time via genetics knowledge, or even by undergoing a simple ultrasound. The prenatal tests are done for a reason: to make the mother aware of the possible defects their children might face. And following from that, prenatal test results—should they come back bearing bad news—might ultimately call for an abortion.

Felicia Simms, a 21-year-old woman from Vernon, BC, recently gave birth to craniopagus twins—twins conjoined at the head, an occurrence that happens only once in every 200 000 births. Normally, twins are the result of an egg splitting in two, but if the division happens in the womb beyond the 12th day, the cells don't fully separate. This is what happened to the Simms' babies, Tatiana and Krista.

From the beginning, Ms Simms had a decision to make: she could continue carrying the twins, knowing the complications and risks that the girls would face at birth—especially since three quarters die within the first 24 hours—or she could have an abortion. Furthermore, being on government assistance and with two other children to care for already, she knew she would have to rely on Canada's health-care system to pay for an operation that may or may not work on little Tatiana and Krista.

Having the technology at hand to assess complications ahead of time has the potential to rehash the abortion debate, but it also sheds some light on situations like the one in which Simms was placed. The fact of the matter is that Simms was given a choice; she had the freedom to make the ethical and personal decision of whether to have an abortion—and in my opinion, she made the wrong one.

She was well aware that the lives of Tatiana and Krista might be at stake if she were to attempt to give birth, and that the well-being of her other children might be affected financially and emotionally.

Tatiana and Krista are currently undergoing tests that will determine whether or not they can be successfully separated, for the girls aren't only joined by the skull—they share similar brain tissue that controls speech and vision. The two were lucky to be born at all; whether they can live happy, fulfilling lives after being separated—or after not being separated—is definitely questionable and will, undoubtedly, be the cause of a lot of strife. It's true that having an abortion could've created a lot of ill-feelings and guilt on Simms' part as well, but chances are that the emotional effects of an abortion would—and will be—a lot less than what Simms and her children are going to go through.

When severe deformities such as craniopagus twins are the case, technology's ability to foretell complications should be put to use to reduce further difficulties along the road. Despite Simms' belief that she can care for Tatiana and Krista as though they're normal children, there will always be emotional, financial and health problems surrounding them. Of course, the line between deciding to abort and deciding to keep the babies in the name of their well-being is blurry, but when the future problems are as abundant as the ones faced by the girls, sometimes a rational decision based on their self-interest needs to be made.

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Premature hibernation

Bears choke in the snow
Quarterbacks play really bad
Throwing many picks.

PAUL OWEN
Poet

LETTERS

There's more to WTF than meets the eye

We would like to provide some comments on the article in the 12 October *Gateway* (re: "University-level English doesn't make the grade") and to clarify a few points about writing at university that were not apparent in the article.

First, we would point out that Ingrid Johnston is a professor of English Education in the Faculty of Education (not in Faculty of Arts). She and Betsy Sargent, a professor in the department of English and Film Studies, have co-chaired the University Writing Task Force since its creation in September 2005. Seventeen other members serve on the Writing Task Force from across campus, including faculty, administration, sessional and student representatives. Our mandate is far beyond the focus on grammar and correctness that the article seemed to suggest. Task Force members are dedicated to considering a variety of possibilities for improving supports for writing at all levels at the U of A.

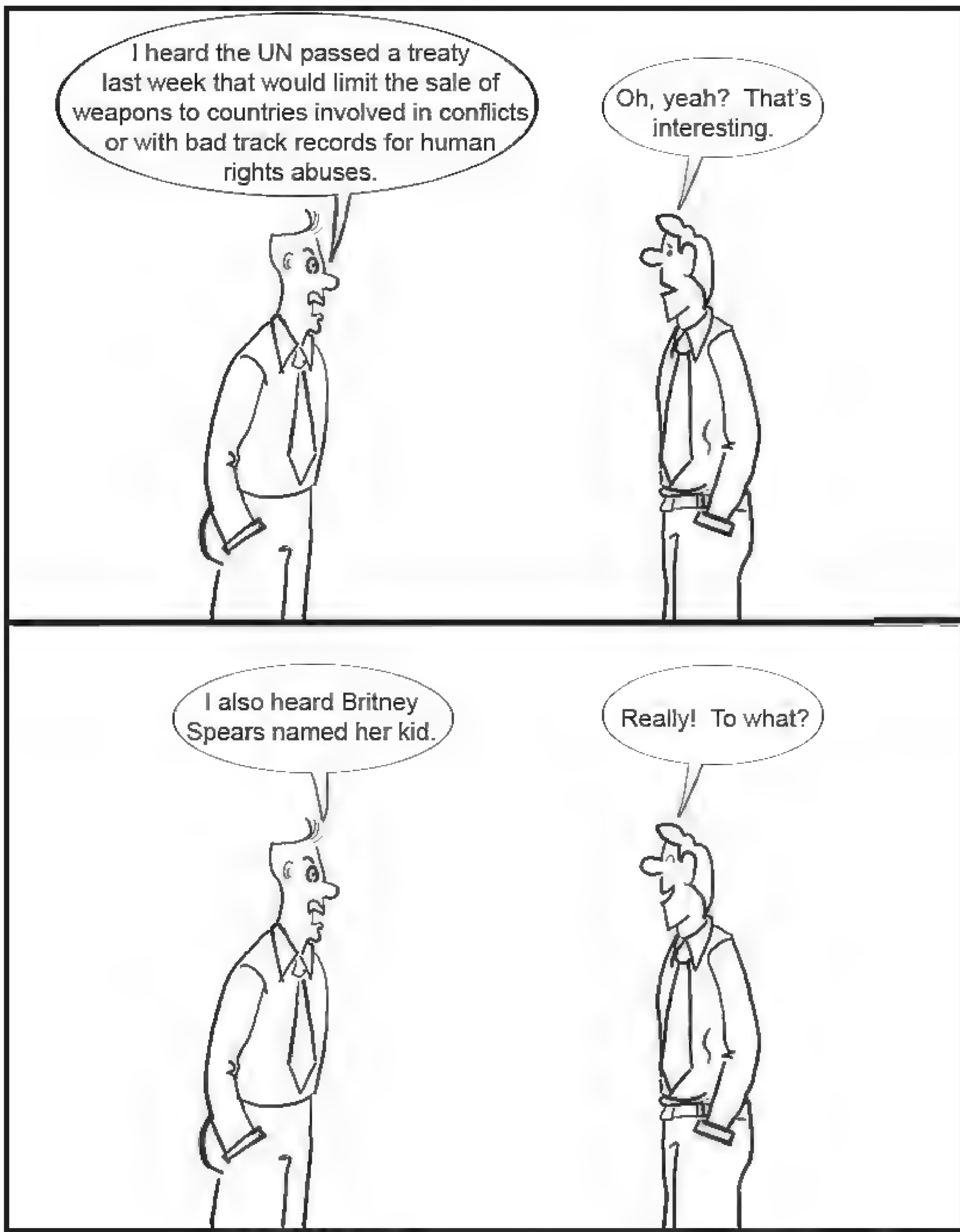
Over the past year, Task Force members have investigated writing initiatives and programs at other major universities in North America, have drawn upon current research in the teaching of writing, and have surveyed instructors' perceptions of undergraduate writing across campus here—all in order to develop recommendations for ways to improve writing and support for writing at the U of A. The Writing Task Force report (along with its extensive appendices and subcommittee research reports) can be accessed at <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/wtf>.

In their report, Writing Task Force members acknowledge that writing issues are complex and require multi-pronged approaches to address the needs of all students, including our international students and students for whom English is not a first language. They stress the importance and value of integrating writing-to-learn into a wide range of courses that students take at University (in all disciplines) and stress how this kind of writing has a different intent than writing for correctness, for evaluation, or for communicating something clearly to a public audience. The report recommends possibilities for Writing-across-the-Curriculum (WAC) at all levels and for Explicit Writing Instruction (EWI) in junior courses, emphasizing that all students should have frequent opportunities to practice their writing with the help of constructive feedback. We want readers of the *Gateway* to know that the Writing Task Force values all the different kinds of writing, from messy exploratory jottings or first drafts (written primarily for oneself, to get ideas down and to figure something out) to carefully edited final copy.

INGRID JOHNSTON
Professor of Secondary Education
BETSY SARGENT
Professor of English & Film Studies

U-Pass not so universal

Canadians often take pride in the importance we place upon protecting minorities from majority oppression. The Students' Union, however,



MATTHEW BARRETT

seems to have forgotten this principle in their push to bring the U-Pass to fruition. Indeed, the program would appear a major coup for those students who utilize public transit as their primary mode of transportation. These students would see their costs reduced significantly, and so it would seemingly be economically foolish for them not to support it.

But what about the forgotten minority? Yes, I speak of the thousands of students whose circumstances lead them to either walk or drive to campus each day. Such students will see their costs rise, as they are forced to use money which could otherwise be spent on books or food to purchase a mandatory transit pass they don't even need.

It has been said that the democratic system "can only exist until a majority of voters discover that they can vote themselves largess out of the public treasury." The U-Pass initiative appears to be an example of this concept in action. We are seemingly headed to a scenario where the majority of students (transit users) use the U-Pass referendum to transfer wealth to themselves ... straight from the pockets of the non-transit minority.

Don't our Students' Union representatives have an implicit duty to protect minority interests?

CHRIS YOUNG
Law I

Soccer Panda gets grievance off her chest

As a member of the Pandas Soccer team I do not appreciate being referred to as "breast-endowed"

(re: Thursday, 26 October). I find it disrespectful and immature. I agree with free speech, but seriously, we are in university. I would have thought the toilet jokes would have lost their appeal by now. As a journalist, I am sure you could come up with a more appropriate way to describe your clients. In the future, a more professional approach would be welcomed.

ASHLEIGH EVANIEW
Education IV

Heise has yet to see the (Blu) light

The writer is mistaken when he states "most studios have committed to supporting both except for Universal" (re: "HD DVD stung by the Blu-ray," 26 October). The truth, in fact, is that all studios are supporting Blu-ray except for Universal. This includes Fox, Disney, Warner, Paramount, Sony and Lionsgate. HD only has support from Warner, Paramount and Universal. Therefore, the consumer proposition to go with Blu-ray becomes a much easier decision.

STEVEN FELDSTEIN
SVP, Corporate and Marketing
Twentieth Century Fox

University's vision blurred by lofty goals

I understand Ms Henry's concern as to the President's goal of vaulting the university into the world's top 20, given her role as SU VP is to protect the interests of undergraduates at the university (re: "U of A's 2020 vision," 26 October).

However, instead of focusing on the downsides of current university aspirations, she should join the President in lobbying the provincial government in order to enable the U of A to accomplish this feat. The university market is now global, evidenced by the recent plethora of world university rankings.

Talented individuals transcend national borders in order to study in the most favorable university environment. These individuals help transform and power the human capital input in achieving economic growth and innovation. Witness the drive of foreign students helping to power the technological hotbed of Northern California, home to two of the world's top 20 universities in Stanford and Berkeley (of note Berkeley is mainly publicly funded and therefore lacks the massive endowments found at comparable private universities).

Given that Alberta is currently in an enviable position as Canada's wealthiest province, it is not justifiable that the province's flagship university is not measuring up to Canada's three other large provinces' flagship universities—UBC, U of T, and McGill—which all consistently rank in the top 50 globally.

If Alberta is to wean itself off of a fossil-based economy and create a 21st-century high-tech economy, I'd recommend that Ms Henry join the President in advocating the provincial government to provide the resources so that the province's flagship university can compete to attract the world's brightest minds.

ROCKEY YOO
Via e-mail

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 6

Knee-jerk reactions don't curb gun crime



MATT
FREHNER

With the nightclub shooting in downtown Edmonton this past weekend, politicians and the public alike are going to use the situation as a soapbox for whatever their personal social agenda may be. But these incidents aren't going to find their solution in legislation or increased police presence. Violence is woven into city life. To suggest otherwise is to be disingenuous; it's to reframe a tragic incident with the aim of furthering a personal or political agenda.

Already there are murmurs from both sides of the gun registry debate. The first camp is decrying a lack of control as the reason for such incidents, pointing out that shooting down the registry program only encourages irresponsible and unaccountable gun use. Meanwhile, the other takes these shootings as proof that, tens of millions of dollars in excess spending later, the soon-to-be-defunct long-gun registry program was a complete failure, as forcing rifle registration hardly affects handgun crime—nevermind that with the Dawson College shooting, which caused similar outcry, Kimveer Gil's long guns were legally registered. Clearly, the Red Light Lounge shootings can be used to fuel either fire.

Others will undoubtedly see this as a sign of Edmonton's ever-increasing rate of gang violence, and will ask that more be done to stymie would-be gangsters with education or law-enforcement programs. This is, of course, a valid point. But we *know* that gangs are bad, and that gang violence occurs. And to reuse a trite example, the gross

over-use of police force during the Oilers' playoffs last spring shows too well that increased police presence isn't an effective way to combat violence.

Edmonton is still a remarkably safe place to live. There have been 32 homicides here this year, and there were 39 last year. But how many of these were caused by firearms or gang violence? In 2003, nine of the 23 homicides in Edmonton were firearm related, while in the same year there were 67 motor vehicle-related deaths, and 52 from falling down. This isn't to underplay the seriousness of gun violence, but simply to point out that Edmonton is still a relatively peaceful city.

What is served, then, by publicizing these shootings, besides using media attention as a scare tactic to further some disparate agenda and reinforce stereotypes?

For a specific example of how politicking can undermine the immediacy of a terrible shooting, we can look back to last Boxing Day's murder of Jane Creba in Toronto, where she was shot dead in what was by all accounts a meaningless act of violence. There was a federal election on the horizon, you'll recall. Though the campaigning had ostensibly shut down for the Christmas break, party leaders seized the opportunity to plug their respective lines. "We need more gun control; the Conservatives would have guns all over our streets," the Liberal camp said. "Gun control obviously doesn't work, we need secure borders. Oh, and by the way, this unpredictable shooting obviously proves that the Liberals are soft on crime," the Tories replied. Meanwhile, Creba was lost in the push for positive spin.

All that this kind of conversation serves to do is to objectify the deaths of innocent people. This time, let's try and keep politics out of it. Let's not approach appalling violence with Band-Aids and platitudes.

This Halloween, dress to impress me

Do it right or don't do it at all—and above all else, don't go as 'yourself'



ROBB
MYROON

The end of October has finally arrived, and I feel that it's my duty to talk to you about a very serious issue that impacts many university students as the mid-term crunch ends. This infection often goes undiagnosed and unnoticed by the afflicted, while it's all too plain to the rest of the world. I'm talking about people who wear bad Halloween costumes, and this problem must be treated immediately.

First, here are some "Don'ts" about costume-wearing; the ones you should avoid like a little boy should avoid Michael Jackson. Don't pull the obvious stunt of showing up dressed as you always are, and then coming up with some witty line about who or what you are. No, "college student" isn't a costume, and the whole "nudist on strike" line won't work on me either.

If you do show up in costume, make sure you've put a little effort into it. I'm talking to the guy who arrives with his sports equipment on; try leaving your room to actually find a costume. We don't really care about your hockey team anyway; how many people actually watched your last game? And no, your parents don't count.

Ladies, the effort rule applies to you too. Perhaps the best of the worst is when a girl puts on a headband with cat ears. While the cat ears are a good start towards a solid costume, it's only cool for Bon Jovi to be halfway there. So round up some face paint; throw some whiskers on, or at least get some paws and a tail. Is it really that hard to put that extra bit of work into it?

Okay, so we all now have a solid



NICK WIEBE

BOO! Even if you play for the Golden Bears, don't dress up as a hockey player.

understanding of what not to do, but that's only half the battle. Even if you avoid the above-mentioned hall-of-shame outfits, that in no way implies that you have achieved costume nirvana. To truly heighten your Halloween experience to a new level—without taking all the candy from the little kids—you must create your own costume.

Don't get me wrong here, going to the mall and buying an adult Batman costume always gets a reaction, but I've found the most memorable ones come hand-made. Being Halloween already, it's a little late to make one on your own, but next year you can dress to impress—as long as you follow these simple guidelines.

First, take some time to pick a high-quality, yet *attainable* costume. Because no matter how good of an idea dressing up as Buzz Lightyear sounds in theory, it would just be too

hard to pull off. In fact, I recommend doing a group thing; that way you're not alone in what you've done—and you can also gang up on the weaker, solo-costume wearers.

Second, make a weekend out of it. Don't think you're going to make some kick-ass costume between dinner and *Grey's Anatomy* (because I know your girlfriend makes you watch it too, guys). Go to West Ed after lunch on a Saturday, and work straight through until dinner. That way, you'll have all Sunday to put it together and make sure all the kinks are worked out.

Finally, remember that this is a contest, and we are not all winners out there. Keep this in mind during the process, and make sure you don't lose your composure for a second—otherwise some guy with an *Incredibles* costume will show you up. In that case, make sure to compliment him on his costume—he'll like that.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Upstart CKUA boasts broad listenership on dust-bowl-era dials

The newspapers are carrying accounts these days of investigations by the "Federal Radio Commission" on the matter of programs and their presentation. Now we see that the farmers would like to have our University station's power increased ten times. Since it is the farmers' request, our government will in all probability do it.

Now, it is well known that the great majority of users of powerful sets are in the towns and cities, since such are quite unnecessary in isolated places. Why should the owners of expensive sets be cramped by the exclusive broadcasting of farm entertainment? Moreover, why should "How to shoot coyotes from the old Ford" be heard all over the dial to the complete exclusion of "You're Driving Me Crazy"?

While we appreciate the value of farm talks, why should we be forced to listen to them if they do not interest us? Better to cut out the broadcast harmonics (the existence of one wave length all over the dial) than to make them even stronger as the farmers ask. And wouldn't the farm folks like a little jazz and popular music now and then as

a variation to "Using the beer mash to feed the hawks?"

At this fair University where we boast of having as high a social standing as intellectual, why should dry radio broadcasts belie the reputation? We have two fine orchestras; why can't we use them? What's the matter with broadcasting their efforts now and then, especially the dance music from the weekly house dances?

Another idea is a feature night.

We have many clubs and societies on campus which would jump at the chance to "go on the air." And they could do it in a big way, too, at that; think how pleased their folks at home would be!

If these or, similar ideas were carefully carried out, the average listener, instead of disgustedly twirling the dial several hundred kilocycles from 580, would contentedly pull out the old briar, light up, put his feet on the dining room table, and murmur with relish, "Good old CKUA!"

Three overtown fans,

"FD"
"WA"
"MB"

5 February, 1931

From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs old-timey letters that we feel are of particular social or historical importance—or are just really hilarious. In this case, it's more along the lines of quaint—but you get the idea.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGES

Rare 'dork' defence invoked in geek vs nerd case

This is a quick note directed to Vanessa Sztym, author of a very misguided letter with reference to Michael Smith's "nerd generation" article two weeks prior (re: "Gateway won't get fooled again over geek/nerd distinction," 26 October). I'll cut straight to the chase, Miss Sztym, you're very wrong in your characterization of a few choice terms which you seem to proclaim yourself an expert with. The word "geek" has very little to do with social aptitude. It originates from a late-nineteenth-century dialect of English, initially portraying a subject as "foolish." The proper evolution of the term becomes a contemporary use which is more at "social outcast," rather than being indicative of a possession of social skills at all.

Similarly, you misconstrue the term "nerd" as someone who does not possess these skills. In reality, this word indicates intelligence or competence in a particular field or area, rather than saying anything about one's ability to interact with others. I would hate to speak for you, but it seems that the word you're struggling for in place of "nerd" is "dork." Look it up. I'm not even going to attempt to tackle the scintillating use of logic in your letter.

On a final note, I'd like to point out that you brought this etymological backhand upon yourself through your unforgivable and unfounded claim of Captain Kirk's superiority over Captain Picard. Jean-Luc, as he is known to friends and lovers,

is both a gentleman and a scholar. James T Kirk is neither; he ought to be properly understood as nothing more than the space-aged equivalent of a schoolhouse ruffian. I'm also afraid Kirk's dizzying mastery over the English language is something you should seek to transcend, not emulate. Enough said.

JUSTIN K GHORY
Arts III

Stars' anatomical attire should have been mentioned

I really enjoyed your article "The worst dressed in the NHL" (26 October). While I can't disagree with your choices of the horrible Islanders uniforms or the "Burger Kings" sweater, there's one more choice that was missing from your article.

I can't believe the recent Dallas Stars' third-jerseys weren't mentioned, with the constellation-themed bulls head that, to me, looked much more like a medical book illustration of the female reproductive system.

By the way, even today, Sharks teal still looks very cool.

I just want to say that as a hockey fan I thoroughly enjoyed this article. Definitely some funny stuff. I want to suggest your writers continuing along this theme in a multi-part series, because there are some hilarious examples that were missed!

MATTHEW ROLHEISER
Graduate Studies

Oil's third-rate threads ought to be panned as well

To have a "worst jersey" list and not include Edmonton's alternate jersey is akin to having a hockey mullet Hall of Fame and keeping Chris Pronger (circa St Louis) off the ballot. The logo looks like the product of Bob the Builder with an industrial fetish, and when teamed with the shoulder derrick logo the Oilers look like the Right Said Fred All Stars. Add it up: proud free-standing derrick, metallic oil drop that resembles super cyborg sperm, some third thing. Of course, Todd MacFarlane has never had a history of bad decisions (cough! McGwire's 70th home run ball, cough!).

I really enjoyed the article, and have to come clean that I am an ex-Winnipegger that hates all five Stanley Cup victories the city of Edmonton holds dear.

DAN MACRAE
The Carillon
Regina, SK

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, sent via carrier owl or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program and year of study.

Halloween: spooktacular celebration or phony festival?

Whoever invented this holiday must have been a friggin’ genius

The sooner I can turn my living-room light back on, the better



KELSEY
TANASIUK

point

31 October, All Saint’s Eve. Pooky Night. Hallow’s Eve. Halloween. Quite possibly the greatest holiday to ever be created by humankind. It’s a lofty title, but I believe that Halloween is more than worthy. The reason being? Candy and costumes.

Seems pretty basic—but not at the root of things. Halloween is essentially about an escape from social confines and rules. For one night a year, rules are null and void. The costume part is obvious. It’s an excuse to dress like the freak you really are, paired with the fact that no one is allowed to question your decisions. And of course, to quote the film *Mean Girls*, “Halloween is the one night a year when girls can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it.” If you’re into that kind of thing.

Halloween is about experimentation in that respect; for those who don’t want a full costume, it’s just as easy to dress outlandishly and try all the styles they had previously been afraid of.

But more widely appreciated is the candy. I have a serious sweet tooth, and for some reason the candy scored on the various 31 Octobers of my life has always tasted sweetest. Many would attribute this to the fact that it’s free (or at least was when we were younger). Candy you don’t pay for is always going to be the tastiest, right?

Not necessarily. You see, this is where the rules are broken once again. I believe that Halloween

candy tastes better because it’s a forbidden fruit. How often do parents turn to their children and impart on them the one piece of knowledge that they hope will get them through life in one piece: “Don’t take candy from strangers!” But somehow, magically perhaps, this rule is waved on All Hallows’ Eve. Suddenly the “stranger candy” we believed to be filled with glass and poison is fair game and as tasty as we could ever dream! In fact we’re encouraged to head from house to house to collect the deliciously forbidden sweets.

But what exactly makes strangers’ candy safe all of a sudden? Is the magic in the air enough to cleanse poison? Is it that the children are all wearing masks, so the villains that their parents warned them about can’t recognize their youthful faces? Or perhaps it’s that the bad guys just can’t decide who to prey upon thanks to the scores of brats making their way to their doorstep. Safety in numbers, as they say.

Of course, our parents always told us not to eat anything till we got home so they could check it. But once again the craziness that is Halloween takes hold! Rules be damned! It’s our candy and we worked hard for it. *There would be no waiting.* We were such rebels sneaking candies in under cover of darkness as we paraded around like a bunch of show dogs in silly costumes, our parents never the wiser thanks to wrappers discarded on the lawns of our unwitting neighbours. We gnawed on Tootsie Rolls and lollipops with caution, thoughts of razor blades slicing our gums thrown to the wind.

Sure, Christmas has presents and Santa and love for your fellow man, Easter may have bunnies and chocolate and bearded guys dying on crosses, and Canada Day has its hot dogs and booze. But I say you can’t beat the pizzazz of “stranger candy” and silly costumes. Wanna fight about it?



RAMIN
OSTAD

counterpoint

Yes, actually I would like to fight about it. To some naïve youngsters, Halloween might be considered the most exciting night of the year; a night filled with adventure, scary and inventive costumes, and bags overflowing with candy. But the truth is, these people don’t understand the inherent dangers involved in this hazardous, deranged and completely ridiculous event.

For many, the dangers of Halloween begin with the costume. It all seems so innocent at first. Groups of people, young and old, gather together to create imaginative and detailed alter-egos for one night of the year. The implication is that this is all for fun, and that it brings out the creativity and humour in people. However, there’s a more disturbing psychological reasoning that’s truly behind this activity. By allowing ourselves to become something other than what we are, we are expressing a secret desire to change our lives. It does nothing but expose just how insecure and unhappy we are with ourselves.

When a person dresses like a fireman or a police officer, they are probably expressing delusions of grandeur and the desire to be known as a hero. If a man dresses up like a robber with a knife stabbing a flower, he could be expressing a deep-seeded desire to take his mother’s virginity, according to Freud. And, frankly, if a woman uses this opportunity to dress up like a whore

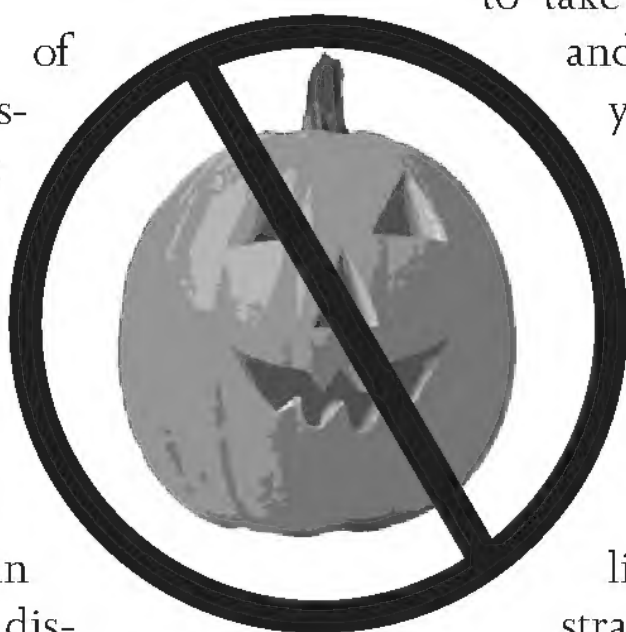
with impunity, she’s a bloody whore to begin with. In fact, I’d like to know just what kind of role-playing fantasies Ms Tanasiuk is going to express this year.

Why should this kind of avoidance behaviour be allowed? People should just be happy with the lives they have and seek professional help for whatever horrendous desires they may experience. The fact that so many gather together in order to express such a desperate cry for help saddens me.

Besides the obvious psychological implications, the proponents of Halloween would tell our children to ignore one of the fundamental rules of social intercourse. As Kelsey points out with surprising intelligence, there is a well known adage that instructs us never to take candy from strangers. But she and her cultist brethren would have

you believe that this maxim can be waved using “magic,” and that this “magic” will protect you and your children from the dangers of strange adults attempting to bait them with sweets and chocolate. Who knows what kinds of dangers lie within the candy bowls of a stranger? Can you really know what they mean when they offer children a *Mr Big* bar? I think not. You say that you do not pay for the candy, Kelsey? I beg to differ. You may pay for it with your life!

Do not listen to these sadists with their tales of fun, adventure and “pizzazz”—whatever the hell that is. Halloween is a dangerous, deranged night filled with devious people committing dastardly deeds. The best course of action is to stay cooped up indoors, resisting all the urges you feel for candy, sweets and dressing up like a dominatrix in order to express feelings of self-flagellation. Otherwise, you may be lost forever in the doom-filled night that is Halloween.





WHERE THE WEST GETS WILD

THE RANCH

EDMONTON’S HOT NEW COUNTRY BAR OPENS NOV. 3RD

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The sky's the limit with new implants



MARIA
KOTOVYCH

"Personally, I think that silicon implants are so 1992. Surely scientists have considered some different materials with which to create implants while retaining the desired consistency of gummy bears at the same time. What about using *actual* gummy bears for manufacturing breast implants?"

Right now, I'm surfing the Internet, and I'm thinking about breasts.

You see, recently the CBC website has been keeping me abreast of recent changes in Canada's health policy: namely, Health Canada is once again allowing silicone breast implants to be used—but there are certain restrictions and conditions placed on them. Now, don't get me wrong—I think breast implants are great to help women who have had a breast removed due to cancer. But are implants really necessary for cosmetic purposes?

In one article, a University of Toronto plastic surgery professor, one Walter Peters, compares the consistency of the gel inside the re-introduced implants to that of gummy bears. Now *that* is something I would happily support—breasts that feel like gummy bears. In fact, just today, as I was getting dressed, I was thinking to myself, "Geez, I sure wish that my breasts felt a bit more like gummy bears."

Suddenly, it occurred to me that breast implants can be yet another vehicle through which women can express their individuality and style. After all, today's consumer market is all about choice. Everything these days can be custom-designed with all sorts of fancy-shmancy features. Look at today's cellphones, cars and computers. You can even get ice cream made with fruits, nuts and candy mixed in with

your ice cream!

In order to stay competitive in today's consumer market and to attract the desired young female demographic, makers of breast implants really should consider creating implants that women can custom design for themselves. Customized breasts can, and should, be the next new fashion accessory. Today's consumers want choice, so I say this: ladies, please join me in demanding more options when it comes to breast implants.

I mean, what are the choices for us now? Right now, we can get either silicon or saline breast implants. That's it. Is it fair to have our choice limited to two types? When you buy a car, nobody limits your choice to two types of cars, and certainly nobody dictates how many options or extra features you can get. Shouldn't that kind of choice also exist for breast implants?

Personally, I think that silicon implants are so 1992. Surely scientists have considered some different materials with which to create implants while retaining the desired consistency of gummy bears at the same time. What about using *actual* gummy bears for manufacturing breast implants? Stay with me here—you know how women are always saying that they can't eat junk food because it'll go straight to their hips? Forget the hips; redirect it to the breasts!

Now, to accessorize. If you think about cellphones and other modern gadgets, they can all be customized to the user—and they would be much less impressive if they didn't beep, ring or play music. Breast implants deserve a voice as well. And since many guys like to talk to a woman's breasts, wouldn't it be cool if the breasts could reply?

In order to remain competitive, breast implant manufacturers should pay attention to the trends. Nothing's more profitable these days than combining technologies. If cellphones can come equipped with cameras and computer games, would it really be a stretch to add similar features to breast implants? I think it would be quite convenient to have a camera embedded right in a breast implant, as a matter of fact. Then, when women go to bars or parties, they wouldn't have to worry about leaving their camera somewhere and having it stolen. And since the threat of theft exists for purses as well, implants could also include a side compartment where a woman could store personal effects like her wallet, keys and lipstick.

This kind of feature would be a nice perk for women seeking a non-traditional, yet practical, implant. It would be breast implants' answer to cargo pants. Most importantly, it would lift their spirits and separate them from the rest of the crowd.

Hold your fire, bitches!

Women are too hostile—and it's pissing me off



DARYN
BADDOUR

someone and relate it to a present bitch-out fight is completely pointless (and actually quite hilarious too).

Some women don't live up to their reputations of being good listeners. They tend to overanalyze one another way to much, which leads to some nasty confrontations in the public arena; and if one gets lucky one of them might even get a slapped across the face and get called a slut, whore or tramp.

I know I always look forward to that part, and if you are a spectator at one of these exciting events then you know that they happen to be more entertaining than the last episode of *Sex and the City*. The point is that this comedic cat-fighting is still prevalent among well respected and accomplished 20-something women—I am witness to it every day at this University—and I must gracefully admit that a while back I succumbed to a bitch-out-fest myself. I still laugh at the thought of it because it was the most entertainment that I have had in a very long time.

The list can go on about the stupid shit women do to hurt each other, whether intentionally or not, and no matter at what age we are all guilty of it. However, the sad truth is some women cease to grow out of their catty behavior. Perhaps, then, it's in our nature? Also, as much as it is my hope for us "sisters" to hold hands in a circle and sing together, I know that this lifelong dream would be impossible. So perhaps we can give ourselves and each other a break, quit the dirty looks, the lies, the gossip, the backstabbing and jealousy, and just chill out—maybe then our PMS cramps would not hurt so freakin' bad.

First it was King Ralph.

Then these goons.

Which evil dictator will we lampoon next?

GATEWAY OPINION
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There are some professions that the world has always needed and will always need; our society has always required doctors and construction workers, chefs and farmers. And since the first prehistoric man threatened an enemy tribe with a 60-foot Doom Spear unless his demands were met, we've had mad scientists—those men and women who're not afraid to push the envelope, to cross the line of ethics, science and fashion sense.

However, being a good mad scientist is more than simply throwing on an oversized lab coat and attempting to hold the world hostage from an underground lair. Real mad science is just like any other career: it takes hard work, dedication, education and a vast army of minions to do your dirty work.

The first step for any career in the sciences

ety of mad scientists; those looking for a lucrative career can always find work designing suitcase nuclear weapons for tiny dictatorships with grand ambitions and huge chips on their shoulders, while those with a preference for the fantastic can focus on the time-honoured tradition of radiating things to make them grow to amazing proportions. And, while work with genetics has taken over a large part of the giant killer insect/plant/waterfowl industry, radiation should not be overlooked. As an added benefit, most of your equipment, materials and family members will develop a bright green glow, saving thousands on lighting.

There are a few cons to consider, however. Bulky radiation suits are not exactly vogue, and a lifetime of working with radioactive chemicals and test subjects means that you're

Robotics/Computing: An old stand-by, modern mad robotics has shifted away from the "50 feet tall with death-ray eyes" mentality of the '50s and has moved more towards the science of nanotechnology, where smaller is better. Whether it's creating tiny gold-eating robots to disrupt the global economy, or putting nanobots in the water supply to turn the townspeople into techno-slaves, nanotechnology is a small world with big possibilities. For those who would rather spend time inputting code into a computer, creating a "thinking" computer with powerful AI is a good way to go. Governments around the world would quickly pay out a hefty ransom to any scientist attacking their computer systems with powerful viruses. Or better yet, hack your way into the federal coffers and help yourself to electronic funds.

Again, there are downsides. If you think it's easy to lose your keys, imagine all the places you could misplace a swarm of robots smaller than an air molecule. And nanotechnology is the easiest way to accidentally sneeze years of work away. As with the computing end of things, two words apply: carpal tunnel. Not to mention the fact that advanced AI has a nasty habit of hubris, thinking itself better than all humans, its creator included. Next thing you know, the damned thing has nuked the entire planet and Robert Patrick is chasing you around a steel mill. No fun.

Meteorology: The easiest way to describe this major is that you act as global warming, only faster. Harnessing the power of nature, you'd be in a position to hold the cities of the world hostage through the threat of powerful hurricanes, precise lightning strikes and hail stones the size of basketballs. Not to mention that you could practically guarantee that it would never rain on your birthday. An often-overlooked mad vocation, the choice of the Mad Meteorologist is nonetheless a great way to rain on the parade of your enemies.

But this branch of evil isn't all sunny days. The main problem with weather controls is that some world leaders have been shown to be reluctant to even recognize shifting climates as a threat. And if the leaders aren't going to recognize your mad genius, how do you expect to extort funds from them? As well, while not many scientists go into weather-manipulation these days, that doesn't mean you are not without fierce competition. You'll need to contend with oil companies, coal mines and soccer moms in SUVs trying to steal your thunder.

While not a comprehensive list of all mad sciences, the points above should give you an idea of some of the major areas of interest. There are, however, a couple of areas that one would be strongly encouraged to avoid if you wish to start a respectable career of infamy.

Mad Mathematics: Sure, algebra tests are scary, but a particularly difficult trig problem isn't going to be enough to hold the world hostage. While math and calculation is an important part of all science, it alone doesn't add up to a successful mad scientist career. Besides, no one bows down before a guy with a calculator watch.

Crazed Civil Engineering: Unless you're prepared to hire out to a Mad Construction Company, you're probably not going to have the manpower to complete a dastardly public works project. Besides, in the end, if you were able to gather the financial and material resources for such an endeavour, what are you left with in the end? An incredibly scary-looking bridge? A sewage treatment centre of the damned? No thanks, we'll pass.

While there's much more to a career in the mad sciences, the choosing of your specialization is the first step, not to mention the most important one. With this quick rundown, you'll be well on the way to building bridges into the fun and profitable career as an evil scientific genius.

And then crossing those bridges leading an army of atomic supermen.



Any serious mad scientist knows that blowing things up is only half of the fun. Laughing maniacally in the aftermath is the other half.

is to choose a major area of expertise. Many mad science types have mastered the arts of multiple disciplines, but the Lex Luthors and Clayton Foresters of the world didn't just start out with knowledge of all things evil. Even they had to start somewhere, picking one area of study to focus on before branching out.

Because discerning the Evil Science major that will best complement your strengths can be a daunting task, we've gone out of our way to make it a bit easier for you, with a quick run-down of the major specializations in the field. Not to say that you shouldn't branch out into whatever mad sciences interest you, but it is always a good idea to have a strong area to fall back on if your plans fail and government agents start storming your lab.

Atomic Sciences: Radiation is a good place to start for any mad graduate student when picking their doctorate program. The amazing power of the atom has captivated and frightened the world for decades, and the threat of atomic weapons are still effective at sending ripples through the global political community. This branch also has the advantage of being suitable for a wide vari-

probably going to end up sterile. Not to mention that you can't just walk into a convenience store and pick up plutonium for your experiments. Sure, you can try to steal some from a group of overly trusting Libyan terrorists, but incidents like that generally end in tears.

Genetics: One of the most controversial areas in science today, this is the perfect choice for anyone who is looking to stay on the cutting edge of twisted technology. If a genetically altered crop of corn is enough to spark hysterics, think of how people will react to a fire-breathing gorilla/jellyfish mix as tall as the CN Tower. No other specialization would allow you to get as close to blasphemy as playing with the DNA of living things.

Of course, no matter how interesting movies make it seem, working in a genetics lab is long and exhausting work, and creating new genetic horrors is still pretty much a trial-and-error affair, with a high rate of catastrophic failure. And in the end, no matter how many times you try to pound "the Law" into their heads, a leopard-man can't change his spots, and is eventually going to turn on the creator.

